

THE

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

Librarian

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World

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1955

Topics For September and October

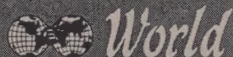


Youth Show Enthusiasm at Columbus Convention

Christ Shall Reign – New Program Theme

For Christ and the Church

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR



Cover

A portion of the delegates at the convention in Columbus is shown at general meeting at Capital University. Photo by Columbus (O.) Citizen.

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The Voice of Christian Endeavor

AUG. - SEPT. • 1955

Volume 71, Number 1

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Coming to You by Way of

The General Secretary



Columbus — "The Best Ever"

● "Columbus was absolutely the best ever" are the words in a letter from a veteran conventioneer. For the more than 100 who made decisions for Christ, reconsecration, or for full-time service, Columbus will be considered the most significant time in their lives. For all who attended, the convention meant new visions and gave new enthusiasm for a life of service for Christ. We are most grateful to the Program and Columbus committees for the splendid and effective work they did. We rejoice because of the encouraging reports of progress that were made at the business sessions. We salute our new president, Rev. Earle W. Gates. We express our gratitude to Dr. Daniel A. Poling for acting as president since the death of Dr. Ernest R. Bryan.

Be It Resolved . . .

● Christian Endeavorers went on record at Columbus making known their stand on many important matters. Delegates asked the Congress of the United States to give consideration that there be more stringent controls on liquor advertising. The youth called attention of governments to offensive and viciously misleading types of cigarette advertising. They voiced approval of the decision of the Supreme Court on segregation, asked for continued promotion of evangelism, the undergirding of the efforts of the United Nations to effect a just and lasting peace, and called attention to the needs and opportunities for Directors of Christian Education. Copies of the detailed resolutions of the 43rd International Convention may be secured from Christian Endeavor headquarters.

For Your Information

● Miss Dorothy A. Kling, a member of the Junior Work Committee of International Society, was ordained to the Christian ministry in Detroit, Michigan, June 20—Dr. Raymond M. Veb, writer of Intermediate topics for "The Christian Endeavor World," received the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature from Westmar College, LeMars, Iowa, May 29—Viroqua Nodolf, chairman of the Junior Work Committee of International Society, will become a teacher in Menaul School, Albuquerque, New Mexico, in September—Ernest S. Marks, trustee of International Society, is the new business manager of Presbyterian Village, home for the aged, Detroit, Michigan—Rev. H. W. Sendall has been elected the new general secretary of the Christian Endeavor Union of Great Britain and Ireland. He will succeed Rev. Andrew Wright who has held that position since 1942.

Reorganization in Mexico

● One of my most thrilling experiences in Christian Endeavor work was attending the convention when the Mexican Christian Endeavor Union was reorganized in Mexico City May 25-29. There has been activity of provincial unions but the Mexican Union has not been active for more than a decade. With great zeal and enthusiasm the youth made plans for giving new strength to the more than 225 societies in the country and to the establishing of new ones. Santos Tamez Cantu of Monterrey, was elected president. Over 600 attended the closing mass meeting. It was a great blessing to have the new leader of the Mexican Union as a delegate at the International Convention in Columbus.

Gene Stone



Rev. Earle W. Gates New President

REV. EARLE W. GATES is the new president of the International Society of Christian Endeavor.

Mr. Gates, who has served in many capacities in Christian Endeavor, was installed by Dr. Daniel A. Poling at the Friday evening session of the 43rd International Christian Endeavor Convention in Columbus, Ohio. He takes the position which was left vacant by the sudden death of Dr. Ernest R. Bryan in December of 1954. Dr. Poling, president of the World's Christian Endeavor Union, acted as president of International Society from the time of Dr. Bryan's death until the election of Rev. Mr. Gates by the Board of Trustees in Columbus.

The new leader is pastor of the First Church of Evans, Derby, New York. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Society, is a member of the Educational Committee, and a former field secretary of New York State Christian Endeavor Union. For a number of years Mr. Gates has been

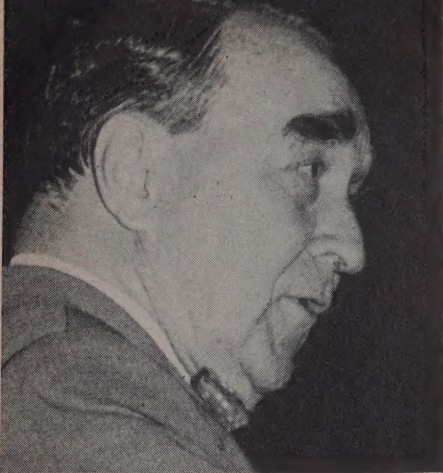
writing the comments for the Senior-Young People's topics in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD. Mr. Gates and his wife, Theda, have three children, Carol Elma, Earle W., Jr., and Diane Ruth, and two adopted daughters.

Besides Mr. Gates, other officers installed at Columbus are associate president, Albert Day; vice-presidents, Albert Arend, Rev. George L. Blackwell, Phyllis G. Brown, Dr. Clyde W. Meadows, and Julian Moran; general secretary and clerk, Dr. Gene Stone; administrative secretary and treasurer, Harold E. Westerhoff; educational secretary and citizenship director, Rev. Robert C. Ross; auditor, William J. von Minden. Vice-presidents in charge of regions include—North Atlantic, Roland P. Blodgett; Middle Atlantic, James Thompson; Southern, Elizabeth McKnight; Great Lakes, Rev. Elwood Dunn; Central, Rev. Allen Bowman; Rocky Mountain, Ralph E. May; Southwestern, Mary Moffitt; Pacific, Cecil A. Jeffery; Dominion of Canada, Rev. J. Wesley Siebert; and Republic of Mexico, Santos Tamez Cantu.

Leader of Youth . . .

Christian Endeavor's leader (left) gives message over Radio Station W.B.N.S. during convention in Columbus. President Earle Gates receives congratulations from his children on being elected to his new office. Carol Elma (14), left, and Diane Ruth (9) salute their father with a kiss while Earle, Jr., (12) proudly looks on.





Christ Shall Reign

Dr. Daniel A. Poling

*(Keynote address given by Dr. Daniel A. Poling at
43rd International Christian Endeavor Convention)*

AS THE WORLD AWAITS the so-called Big Four conference, and as Christian churches and Christian agencies, almost without exception, unite in prayer for the sound success of the conference, this Convention, while joining in the prayers, presents Christ as the world's only sufficient Saviour. He has the answer because He is the answer. In Him and with Him alone is man's ultimate hope.

We have come out to the edge of the world with our own devices and we stand now with a bomb in our hand that is powerful enough to destroy life itself. Man has made the bomb but, because he cannot remake himself, he is afraid. He is more afraid than ever he has been in all human history before this hour. He is afraid, not of the bomb, but of himself—afraid that he will drop it!

The supreme problem of civilization is the problem of human character. And man's supreme need is redemption. If he would survive, he must be saved—not from his enemies, not from the bomb, but from him-

self. "Come unto me," Jesus said, and "I will make you . . ." Here joins the faith, here enters the program of Christian Endeavor and of this International Convention. In this faith and with this purpose we open the sessions of our 43rd International gathering.

Christ shall reign. His spirit will win over all, win over all at last or we, on our own, shall die at our own hands. It is as simple but it is as terrible as that.

Specifically then in this convention we dedicate our entire program, our conferences, our quiet hour periods, our evening convocations and our personal commitments to Jesus Christ, Who is our life. Here we shall study to show ourselves "approved unto Him" that He shall reign in each of us through Evangelism, through Citizenship and through Leadership. May this comprehensive program, which will be spelled out and inspired in study hours and forums of the week, begin in our individual lives.

First, for each of us, is acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord.

Then follows throughout this Convention and beyond, Living My Faith, Expressing and Practicing My Redemption. Church membership and participation is fundamental in Christian Endeavor and, the world around, "For Christ and the Church" is our motto, with its pattern and plan for daily living.

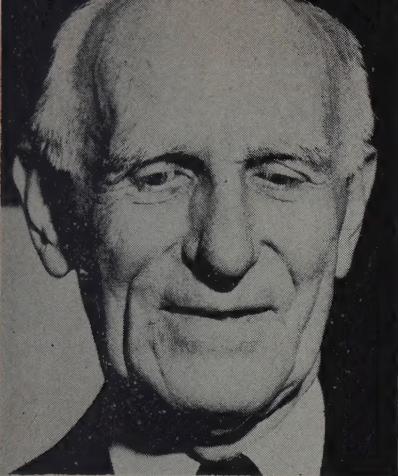
Personal evangelism for us is as old as the Christian Endeavor movement. Never has there been a successful Christian Endeavor Society anywhere in the world that did not major in winning other young people to Christ, bringing them into the church and sustaining and strengthening them there for Christian leadership and service in all areas of personal and public activity. As of my own experience, I know of no agency of the Christian Church that, through the years for more than three quarters of a century, has been so successful in recruiting young people for full time Christian service, at home and overseas. Also, of my observation, and experience, where churches have lost Christian Endeavor, in this vital

YOUTH SING ON CAPITOL STEPS—More than 1200 delegates gathered in front of the State House of Ohio for a hymn sing led by Rev. Albert H. Heinz, song leader, Wednesday night. Mayor Maynard E. Sensenbrenner of Columbus is shown with some of the youth as they sang the favorite hymn of the city executive, "Onward, Christian Soldiers."

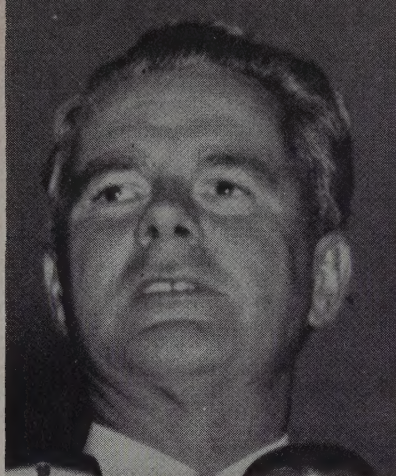


PRESIDENT OF MEXICAN UNION POPULAR—Convention delegates receive autographs of Santos Tamez Cantu, the new head of the Mexican Christian Endeavor organization. Santos, as the group familiarly called him, told the convention the thrilling story of the reorganization of the national union in his country.

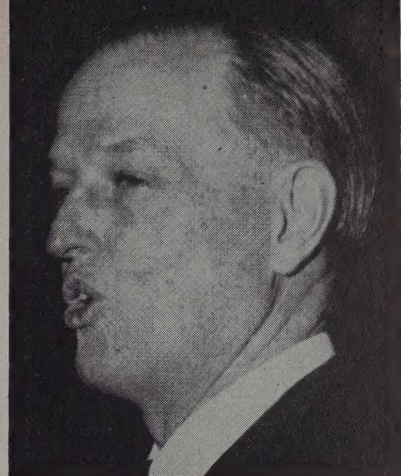




Dr. Frank C. Laubach



Dr. Raymond I. Lindquist



Dr. Walter H. Judd

recruiting field they have found no successful substitute. They have not replaced the loss and the loss has become, to the Kingdom, a grievous thing.

Particularly I would urge upon our Christian Endeavor Unions, state and local, and upon individual Societies and upon all Christian Endeavor officers, emphasis upon the place of the Director of Religious Education in the comprehensive ministry of the local church. Here was a particular concern of Ernest R. Bryan. Here he gave, in the last weeks of his life and leadership with us, some of his most earnest thought. Immediately there is need and opportunity in this vital field for hundreds of our most promising young men and women, and in this Convention are delegates who could make their life commitment and begin planning and preparing accordingly. On our part, we should be ready to give to young people making this decision, guidance in their choice. I believe that religious education at the local church level, which is the first level of strategic need and opportunity, should no longer be overlooked or underemphasized.

The ministry overseas and at home, in all its varied and multiple aspects—evangelistic, medical, educational and social service—the comprehensive and complete ministry of the Christian Church, continues to be the seed ground of all Christian Endeavor activities. Here is our dedication. This is our task and, trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, we promise Him and we promise the Church.

Again: We have come to Columbus that we may learn how to add our bit and contribute our best that Christ shall reign through Citizenship. Here joins perhaps the most widely publicized of all our activities. In the final session of the Convention one of America's most vital Christian laymen, Mr. Stanley Kresge, will present the awards to the winners of our most recent Citizenship Contest. This will be a notable occasion. But real citizenship begins in the home itself, and at the family altar. Young peo-

ple may establish or reestablish an altar and may bring about a grace at the family table where these have been neglected. Often Christian Endeavorers have turned the face of the home toward God and Church.

For many years Christian Endeavorers have had a real and often a distinguished place in community service. "A Saloonless Nation by 1920" was a slogan adopted by the Atlantic City International Convention of 1911. That slogan, as the goal of Temperance America, became a triumphant reality. Now, though the Eighteenth Amendment has been repealed, the liquor problem remains. In some of its proportions this problem is more tragic, more virulent and of proportions more vast than at any time in modern social history. Liquor advertising on television and radio, on billboards and just about everywhere, has become a

direct menace to physical life and public morals. Today liquor figures somewhere in considerably more than one-third of all automobile accidents. "Rule G" demands that railroad engineers be total abstainers while at the throttle. But behind the wheel of fifty million automobiles a man or a woman may, at his or her own choice, turn over the controls to John Barleycorn—and the neons urge him to do so. Right now, Christian Endeavorers, an all-out but reasonable campaign against liquor advertising has become a social imperative. And surely liquor sales should be forced back at least one mile from the main highways of America. No less offensive and often even more vicious in its misstatements is national cigarette advertising. To this matter I also direct the attention of our Committee on Resolutions.

(Please turn to Page 10, Col. 1)

Message From President Eisenhower

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 7, 1955

Dear Dr. Poling:

Please extend my greetings to those in attendance at the Forty-third International Christian Endeavor Convention.

Our efforts to achieve peace, if they are to produce genuine advances, demand a firm resolve to uphold the moral and spiritual principles which are at the core of our civilization. It is inspiring to know that your meeting once again brings together a group of young men and women—from many free countries, of many different denominations and races—united in their willingness to further, in accordance with such principles, understanding and brotherhood among the peoples of the world.

I remember with pleasure my meeting with all of you last year. I hope you will have another fruitful convention, and that you will return to your home communities strengthened in your capacity to work for this cause, and in your faith that such endeavors as yours will ultimately be successful.

Sincerely,

/s/ DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

The Reverend Daniel A. Poling, D.D.
Acting President
International Society of Christian Endeavor
1221 East Broad Street
Columbus 16, Ohio



A Highlight In Fellowship — The Convention Banquet

More than 1,100 Christian Endeavorers sat around the tables for the Wednesday evening program and food, fun and faith at the Ohio Student Union of the Ohio State University. This was a capacity crowd, many were turned away. Glen Massman, former field secretary of Ohio C.E. Union, was toastmaster. Young people of Indianola Church of Christ, Columbus, pre-

sented the dramatization, "This Is Christian Endeavor!" The conventioners enjoyed singing under the leadership of Rev. Albert H. Heinz with Mrs. Albert H. Heinz at the piano. Presentation of registration awards to unions was made by Harold E. Westerhoff. The Columbus convention committee was introduced.



THIS IS CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR—A dramatization written by Catherine Miller Balm for presentation by societies and unions during the Diamond Jubilee of Christian Endeavor in 1956 was presented at the convention banquet. A scene is shown. Mrs. Mary Brady Smith directed the event. Copies of the dramatization will be available through International Society. Shown in picture (left to right) are Mrs. Laura Schaeffer, Carolyn Schaeffer, Charles Schierbeck, and Timmy Earhart.

Urges A Barrage of Prayer. .

Dr. Frank C. Laubach, world-famed as "the apostle to the illiterates," challenged the Endeavorers to have vision and courage to spearhead a campaign of prayer at every "breakfast, every noon meal, and in frequent group meetings" for a mighty barrage of prayer upon the nations on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

Telegram Sent to President

In response a telegram was sent by the convention to the President of the United States. This read: "Tonight the 43rd International Christian Endeavor Convention by unanimous rising vote prayed and pledged its prayers in support of your mission to Geneva. This Convention further pledged to call all who believe in prayer throughout the United States and Canada to unite in daily personal and corporate prayer that those who go to Geneva become the instruments of God's Will and of Christ's Peace."

The official biennial program of Christian Endeavor, using the theme "Christ Shall Reign," was launched at Columbus. The emphasis in various meetings and in literature will be on this theme. Dr. Daniel A. Poling in his keynote address stressed the various emphases on "Christ Shall Reign—Through Evangelism, Through Citizenship, and Through Leadership."

Portland Is Next

The invitation of Portland, Oregon, to hold the 44th International Christian Endeavor Convention there was accepted. It was voted to have the convention July 8-13, 1957.

The annual meetings of the Board of Trustees of International Society and the Corporation were held in the Deshler Hilton Hotel. It was decided to hold the meeting for 1956 June 28 in Washington, D. C., when a Citizenship Convocation will be conducted in the Nation's Capital.

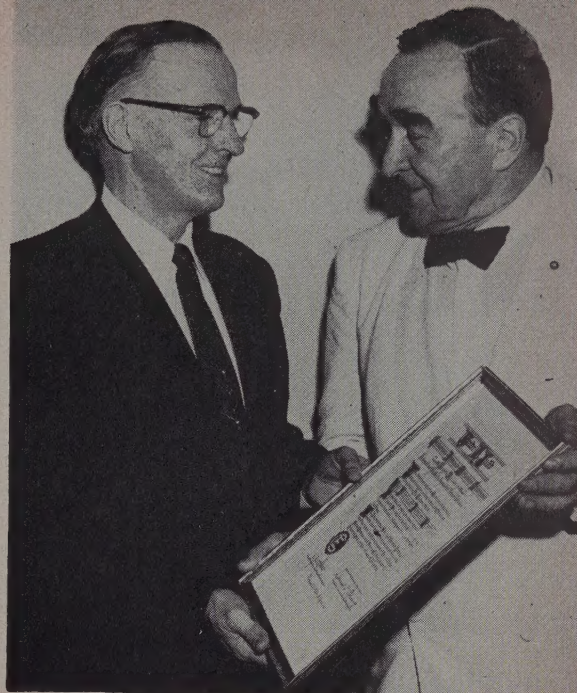
At the corporation meeting the by-laws were changed so that in the future the president can not serve more than two terms. A term of office is two years.

Dr. J. Gordon Howard, Chairman

Dr. J. Gordon Howard, president of Otterbein College, was chairman of the Columbus convention committee, with Robert S. Hildreth, former president of Ohio Union, as associate.



CITIZENSHIP WINNERS—Rev. Robert C. Ross, citizenship director of International Society, makes presentation of awards to victors in the 1955 contest. Elda Ann Thornburg (left) received first honors in Division A and Barbara Brodbeck in Division B.



DR. JUDD HONORED—Dr. Daniel A. Poling presents International Youth's Distinguished Service Citation to Congressman Walter H. Judd of Minnesota. Dr. Judd addressed the closing session of the convention.

Activities Galore For Delegates . .

With colorful hats, caps, beanies, and other regalia, more than 2500 youth from the United States, Canada, and Mexico "had the time of their life" at the 43rd International Christian Endeavor Convention in Columbus, Ohio, July 11-16.

A Jammed-Packed Schedule

Morning activities began with the Quiet Hour service conducted by Dr. Clyde W. Meadows, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, in Mees Hall of Capital University. Youth attended 35 different classes. Arch J. McQuilkin led a sparkling program for the morning assemblies. Denominational, union, missionary, alumni, and other luncheons and dinners were held. Delegates enjoyed sight-seeing and recreation. In the evenings at Memorial Hall youth listened to addresses by Dr. Daniel A. Poling, Dr. Frank C. Laubach, Dr. Raymond I. Lindquist, and Dr. Walter H. Judd. They heard sacred music by the Ohio State Summer Chorus under the direction of Professor Dale V. Gilliland.

Juniors conducted their own convention Saturday with many features.

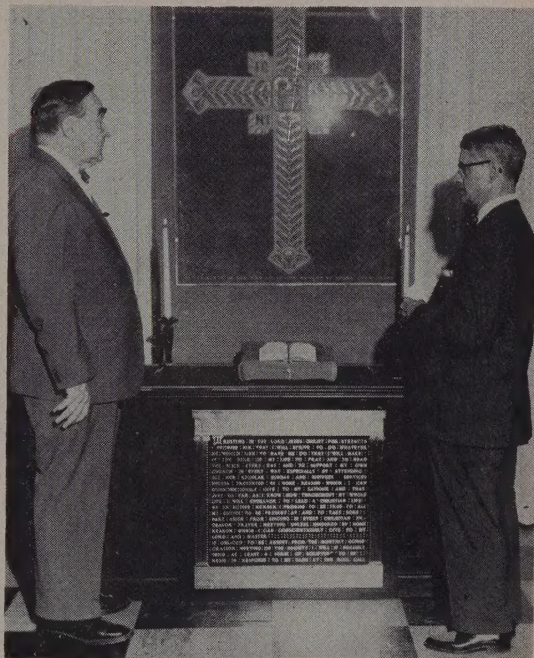
That Colorful Parade

The colorful hour-and-a-half long parade on Columbus' Broad Street was an outstanding event of the convention. Honors for units outside of Ohio went to the following: Ontario, first; Pennsylvania, second; North Carolina, third. For the county units in Ohio outside of the host county, the top honors went to Tuscarawas, with Stark second and Richland third. For Franklin County, in which Columbus is located, Caldwell Temple A.M.E. Zion was first with West Second Avenue Presbyterian second and Central Presbyterian Church third.

Awards were presented at the convention for winners in the registration campaign. Units marched in the parade in the order they finished in the contest. First honors in Division A went to Pennsylvania, Ontario took second place with Golden Rule third and California fourth. Fifth position was captured by New Jersey.

In Division B North Carolina was out in front. Kentucky ran a close second. Alabama was third with Oregon fourth and Colorado fifth.

Jim Thompson was registrar for Pennsylvania with Ruth Lee as the campaign leader for North Carolina.



IN MEMORY OF HELEN LYON JONES—During the convention the newly furnished conference and assembly room of Christian Endeavor headquarters building was dedicated in memory of Mrs. Jones, who for many years was vice-president of International Society. Mrs. Jones' husband, Mr. Joseph Holton Jones (right), and Dr. Daniel A. Poling look at the cross which was given by Mr. Jones. The desk being used as an altar is the one that was in Dr. Francis E. Clark's study when the first society of Christian Endeavor was formed.



Members of Youth Assembly Carry Flags of Many Nations

Christian Endeavorers



Sunrise Union, Cleveland, Ohio

Mrs. Leroy B. Mills, Winner, Lookout Contest



West Second Avenue Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Ohio

Trombone Choir, Tuscarawas County, Ohio





Pennsylvania Delegation Leads the Parade

—Photo by Columbus (O.) Citizen

n The March . . .



Ontario Union

Richland County, Ohio



Central Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Ohio

North Carolina





Marching Unit, Caldwell Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Columbus, Ohio

Christ Shall Reign

(Continued from Page 5, Col. 3)

Political censorship is repugnant to freedom, but of growing concern to our movement and to the Christian Church is the attitude of certain sectors of Hollywood to Scriptural themes and Bible stories. With mercenary effrontery, even the Parables of Jesus are being invaded. The producers of "The Prodigal Son" are an example in kind. This picture is a perversion of the Scriptural story of a father's love and, considering the Holy One Who spoke the words, to tens of millions who hold the parable sacred, it is blasphemy. This Convention and Christian Endeavorers generally will not remain silent in the face of a growing deluge of such evil on the screen. That part of Hollywood that seems to have reached the conclusion that no one can possibly object if "it's just a Bible story," will be well advised to take another look. As examples of another and worthy kind, I cite here "The Ten Commandments" and "King of Kings." Beyond these, I name for my first accolade that monumental picture, "Martin Luther," nor would I forget "John Wesley."

At the moment we are deep in our study of the growing menace of so-called juvenile delinquency. In this study we have advanced far enough to know that juvenile delinquency is generally and first, community delinquency and family delinquency. Delinquency does not appear as a problem in homes where parents practice their Christian faith and lead their sons and daughters in that practice.

These then are some of the broad areas of life where, here and now, the personal commitment of the Christian Endeavorer is invited and where he is challenged to study and serve; where he—and that means you—may join to have a brave part. But I

cannot overemphasize the necessity of first being alert to the quality of your own inner life if you would play a worthy part in any worthy arena of public service. Give first attention, Christian Endeavorers, to the wellspring of your soul. Christ, through you, is in some measure destined to reign in Evangelism and in Citizenship, then He must, first and preeminently, reign in you and over you. Tonight I suggest that you draw the chart for yourself; that you decide how He may reign; that you make your own test; that you answer tonight these questions:

Do I keep the quiet hour?

Do I read my Bible regularly?

Do I pray—really pray?

Do I give my own money and my time and do I give myself to Christ and the Church?

What is my church attendance and service record?

Do I study to equip myself for leadership in my church and in my community?

What conferences and conventions, organized to train and inspire young people, have I attended?

What strong voices have I heard?

What have I done or offered to do to help my pastor?

When did I speak to another person about becoming a Christian or joining the church or becoming a member of my Christian Endeavor Society?

Have I considered for myself the possible claims of full time Christian service upon my life?

What am I doing right now to discover at least one spot in which my life may count for something worth while?

If you will make your own chart, filled out with these and perhaps other questions, you may be sure that this 43rd International Convention of the International So-

ciety of Christian Endeavor will be worth your time. It may set your feet on the path of an eternal destiny.

A Christian Endeavorer whom I know who is physically terribly handicapped but with an unconquerable soul, wrote an editorial that appeared recently in an evening newspaper of an upstate New York city. He began his editorial with the story of Russian youth crowding the Red Square in Moscow and chanting, with up-raised fists, chanting in rhythmical cadences over and over, "We are changing the world." He went on then to his conclusion: "Hundred of years ago," he said, "the Navajo Indian used uranium ore for self-decoration. On today that very ore is changing life for the entire world." And then came these last two dramatic sentences: "We use our Christian faith today much as the Navajos used uranium—without realizing its great potential value. Christian youth—we must change the world." And the boy who wrote those lines believes that he can and must change the world—change his world.

I give you that faith tonight. I challenge you to that task tonight—each of you and all of us who are met here together. Jesus Christ is the Answer, and trusting in Him for strength, we will change the world!

More news and pictures of the 43rd International Christian Endeavor Convention will appear in the next issue of "The World."

\$60⁰⁰ FOR A LITTLE SPARE TIME
With NEW Christmas Card Line!

Make the profit on each \$1.25 TALL-CARD "Imperial Gold" Christmas Assortment—\$60.00 cash on 80 boxes easily. 250 fastest selling card assortments, stationery, gift items—many EXCLUSIVES including Personalized Christmas Cards. Famous Doehla line color catalog. Extra Cash Bonus; Guarantee assures up to 15c more profit per box. 1-Free-With-3 Sample Offer; other surprise Free Offers. Send coupon for sample kit NOW.

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Send money-making kit of 5 assortments on approval. FREE Personalized Samples, other FREE Offers.

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Address
City State

Only Cardinal Offers You New Tall Cards 25 for \$1.25

30-Card 1 Box GIFT WRAPS BY-THE-YARD NAME-IMPRINTS 40 for \$1.25 Up

THIS is a fair and reasonable question: *May worship, in its fullest sense, be taught by one person to another?*

Surely we may teach *why* worship is so important in the relationship of man with God his Father.

The *ways* of worship may be imparted, often by demonstration or example.

The materials and forms of worship are commonly important in the responsibilities of the church to its members and friends. With good reason, worship is included at some point in the social activities, business meetings, and other events in church life, instead of being restricted to Sunday worship services, the Holy Communion or Lord's Supper, and week-night prayer gatherings.

Every public worship service which is thoughtfully and reverently approached has great elements for good. Even the mature and experienced Christian is likely to receive spiritual help from some fellow member's interpretation of a Bible passage, or from the prayers which come out of other people's experiences, or from the music planned as a part of worship. All the more helpful, to the person's own spiritual growth and his dependence on worship as a force in life, will such group devotions be for the less experienced Christian.

Some young adults have remarked that their private prayers often follow one of two patterns: an approach to God brought over from childhood, and even using the form of childhood's prayers, or an adaptation of the petitions commonly heard in church worship services.

Personal Worship

But personal worship might well have other forms. We may bring before the Heavenly Father not only the customary and necessary petitions for pardon and forgiveness, for the health and welfare of dear ones, for strength to meet difficulties and temptations, but much more that has to do with a person and his God rather than with the general group.

Each of us will know of his own personal and intimate reasons for gratitude to God. Each person also knows where he most needs divine wisdom and strength, what matters call for difficult decisions, what fears must be routed, what new turn must be taken in life day by day.

Personal worship also makes use of the Bible, other religious books, the hymnal, clippings set aside for worship periods, and sacred art. I have known of a couple playing a record of religious music while reading the Bible together—and no doubt the practice might sometimes be inspiring to a person worshiping alone.

Recently Published

WHEN PAPA READ THE BIBLE. By Chester Warren Quimby. (Many practical suggestions on reading, understanding and appreciating the Scriptures.) THE UPPER ROOM, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee, 25 cents.

REDISCOVERING PRAYER. By John L. Casteel. Association Press, 291 Broadway, New York 7, New York, \$3.50.

Learn More

About WORSHIP!

Group Worship

All of us should be willing witnesses for Christ in serving, as the occasion arises, in forms of public worship. Group worship usually includes:

1. *Readings from the Bible.* The verses should be carefully chosen, to aid and inform and inspire the group participating. The one who reads will become familiar with these verses before presenting them, and may well use them in personal devotions earlier. Scripture reading calls for clear and accurate pronunciation, dignity, expression, but no dramatic tricks. As you complete the reading, will you not silently pray that this portion of God's Word will be used by the Holy Spirit to bless those who listened to the Scripture?

2. *Spoken prayers and a period for silent prayer.* Here again the one leading in prayer should carry into the meeting an impersonal, consecrated spirit. He is not a performer nor is he "directing" group devotions. Let the spoken prayer be such as will put into words the hopes, aspirations, desire for pardon, thankfulness, and deep concerns of his group. A time for silent prayer is no formality, but should be strongly sensed as a time in which the Holy Spirit is near.

YOUNG ADULT WORKSHOP

By Bert H. Davis

3. *Music.* Whether the singing be that of soloist, group or entire congregation, let each one who sings follow closely the words, the total significance, of the hymns. And so those chosen for a worship service will be truly devotional hymns, with music attuned to the words and with simple accompaniment. Some persons do not participate audibly in the hymns. But let them speak the words into the mind, so that they too are sharing in this experience of group worship.

4. *Devotional talks.* Usually the subject-matter is best drawn directly from the Bible, although it may be desirable to mention personal or group experiences to point out present-day applications of the devotional truth. A number of books are in print, giving short devotional messages given by experienced pastors, and these texts serve to demonstrate what elements are helpful and interesting, when brought together prayerfully for a devotional talk.

5. *Other components.* The musical prelude, the lighting, the stained-glass windows and other phases of a sanctuary's construction, a tasteful display of flowers are among the other contributors to meaningful group worship. Everyone knows too how the beauty of the earth and of the sky gives great significance to many outdoor worship services,

which indeed require few man-made properties. To include the spectacular in any group worship scene is to risk the wandering of attention and the blunting of the worship emphasis.

Help From The Bible

THE Bible gives us even more than the materials from which personal and family and group worship may derive. *It is the world's most complete and authoritative history of and textbook on the worship experiences of man.*

We begin in the older portions of the Old Testament with worship built around sacrifices at the altar. An ancient people, unique in their reliance on one all-powerful God, depended for a long period on a priesthood to conduct the rites of worship. The prophets began to lead Israel toward personal worship, though Moses and Job and other individuals had also broken through an artificial barrier between God and His children.

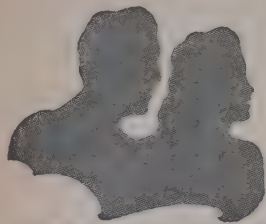
But even though the prophets, by such messages as in Jeremiah 6:20 and 29: 1-14, fostered the idea of sinful men approaching God in prayer, it was the mission of Christ and His Church to "teach us to pray"—to make worship, inner communion, group and personal devotions the right and privilege of all who believe in the Father and the Son.

Sacrifice before the Almighty had not been cancelled, as the Bible recounts this progress toward Christian worship. "Present your bodies a living sacrifice," said Paul (Romans 12:1). This became a term of identifying one with the Lamb of God, whose death for the sins of the world makes it possible for those who choose Christ to come to God with Christ only as intercessor.

But worship in the Christian way has requirements other than faith in God's power. If one seeks God's forgiveness, he must forgive the offenses of others (Matthew 6:14, 15; 18:35). To be trusted by God and made His instrument for good, one must give Him undivided loyalty (Matthew 6:24; Mark 9:23; James 4:8; John 14:23). Worship in one of its finest forms is on behalf of the needs of others (Ephesians 3:14-19), as might be illustrated in our day by prayer services directed toward evangelism and missions.

To find the will of God is the high point in Christian worship. Let us seek such an end in our private and public devotions, and then let us follow the high commands loyally, humbly, persistently!

The book "With Young Adults in Christian Endeavor" may be purchased through the International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio. The price is \$.75.



Christian Faith and MY JOB

No. 1 in a Series:
"Making My Faith Vital"

Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-25

Senior-Young People (15-24 YEARS)

— SEPTEMBER 4 —

Comments by Earle W. Gates

Pattern For The Meeting

The leader of this meeting should make careful preparation for its success by these steps:

Pray for God's blessing and help. Study the Bible selections given. Read the following material, then add his own thoughts, experiences, and other illustrations.

Plan a brief Leader's Talk to make clear the purpose of the meeting.

Since this is Consecration Sunday, and we stand at the opening door of the Fall season of activity, this should be a meeting with a real purpose. Give emphasis to the on-going program of the society for the months ahead. Let each member dedicate himself anew to a greater loyalty to Christ and a greater faithfulness to the Society and Church. The leader can help provide a real "look ahead."

The topic today is the first half of an important series, *Making My Faith Vital*. How needful this is! This topic turns our thinking toward our daily work. *Christian Faith and My Job* brings together two matters of deep concern to each one of us. The leader may well use some of the material compiled for the topic of May 1 and may benefit by the discussions and decisions of that day. The primary emphasis is not on the choosing of a vocation, however, but on the application of our Christian principles in the job we are doing. In preparation it may be well to review the elements considered in the earlier meeting, that is, the considerations involved in selecting a life work. Then give heavy emphasis on the matter of "living Christ" in the chosen vocation daily.

Outdoor meetings may be preferred for awhile yet. This is good but let there be adequate preparation wherever it is. The summer's play is over. We must settle down to work. At this time, if it has not already been done, a date should be set for a Planning Conference in the near future. The whole society, or at least the Counsellor and leaders, should meet for several hours to lay out a total program for the coming year. Responsibilities must be assigned, goals set, and materials secured. Perhaps this meeting could be the start.

A SEED THOUGHT

"If a person can not be a Christian at his job, there is something wrong with either the job or the person."

Christian Faith

Our Christian faith is not something to be taken lightly. It is not a cloak to put on and off at will. It is the foundation for our very lives. It is our life philosophy. To be a Christian one must both believe and act. To merely affirm a principle and to talk about creeds is entirely insufficient. On the other hand, mere deeds without basic faith in God to justify them are dead things indeed.

Christian faith has its beginning in the whole-hearted acknowledgement of Christ as Saviour and Lord. To believe in His sacrifice for us is to cause us to desire to live different lives. Our gratitude leads us to Christ-centered living. Thus our trust in His redeeming act, and our acceptance of His Way of Life, builds in us a set of convictions regarding right and wrong. Prayer, study of the Bible and Christian service fills our lives more worthily with the Spirit of Christ. Truly "by the cross our lives are judged." This faith in Him, and in His Way is sufficient reason for inspiring us to higher ways of living, in every area of life—including our occupation.

My Job

My job is the one I have chosen out of a great variety of choices. Our topic for May 1 was *One Vocation out of 20,000 Choices*. This gives some idea of the range of opportunity. Good judgement and wisdom must be exercised in selection of that which may be a life-long occupation. Some young people may, of course, by force of circumstances find themselves in jobs not of their own choosing; they may be engaged in work that is distasteful to them. Whichever may be the case, these are our present occupations. In them we are expected to be our best. Discuss whether or not you are satisfied with your work. It will be interesting to share the reasons why we have chosen the work that we are now doing, and help those who are "looking."

My Faith And My Work

Here is where the problems arise. Our faith may be sound, and our occupations profitable, but it often happens that they do not get along well together. The circumstances of some jobs are such that Christian convictions are difficult to maintain, good moral principles are in conflict. In short, one sometimes wonders how he can be Christian and still continue at his work.

At this season of new beginnings it is well that we take stock of what we have and where we are going. In Christianity our faith is our major stock. Without faith all else is meaningless. Important though our jobs are, they cannot force us to sacrifice this deep faith and

Aim of the Topic

1. To determine how one can be consistently Christian in his daily work.
2. To see how this makes faith more vital.

Discussing a Vital Faith

1. What can a job rightly claim of us?
2. How do we determine the rightness of a job?
3. What is a "vital Christian faith"?
4. Can my job and my faith conflict? How?
5. Should a Christian work in a tavern or other place that has unchristian influence?
6. How can he meet the problem of being asked to misrepresent goods or service?
7. What does one's example do in the above situations?
8. Can a vital Christian faith abide in an unwholesome atmosphere? What must it do?
9. Discuss the Seed Thought.
10. How are our jobs and our leisure related?

principle. We must however live with our beliefs and our conscience. No job is worth violating these. In reality, the question we must face is this, "How Christian can a person be in business?"

Some Of The Tests

There will be many areas where our principles will be tested and tried. The work might involve dishonest dealings in the matter of weight or quality of the goods delivered. Misrepresentation or untruth might be required. How about the one who is expected to praise and sell an inferior product? The very work may cause hardship or problem to others, in such situations as working with alcoholic beverages, etc. Can a Christian dispense these to others with a clear conscience? The work hours may prevent church attendance or other Christian activity. The very nature or location of the job may require a Christian to spend time in an unchristian atmosphere. What about the example he is showing? Consider well the issues involved, then try to determine if the job is worth while. Our faith must be kept vital and active. It is good to remember that if a person cannot be Christian in his job, something is wrong either with the person or his job.

From God's Word

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| M., Aug. 29. | Good Works. | Titus 3:8 |
| T., Aug. 30. | Admonished To Work | Haggai 2:4 |
| W., Aug. 31. | The Work of God. | John 6:28, 29 |
| T., Sept. 1. | A Time to Work. | John 9:4 |
| F., Sept. 2. | An Unjust Steward. | Luke 16:1-12 |
| S., Sept. 3. | A Laborer's Pay. | Matt. 20:1-16 |
| Sun., Sept. 4. | Topic—Christian Faith and My Job. | Eph. 5:5-8; Col. 3:22-25 |

Our Goals

1. To consider where we can best invest our life.
2. To take the right attitude toward daily chores.
3. To discover ways to get the greatest satisfaction out of one's work.

Questions

1. Study 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10 and try to determine what the importance of this teaching may be for us today. Should one be satisfied to be dependent upon others when he is able to support himself? Discuss the Christian implications of this.
2. Study 2 Timothy 2:15. What kind of workman was Paul expecting Timothy to be? What would he have to do to be this kind of workman? How would you apply this same principle to other occupations?
3. According to Galatians 6:14, what thing should dominate the thought of the Christian? How will this determine his attitude toward his work?
4. What is the meaning of Ephesians 4:28? How does it apply to us?
5. What is meant by Ephesians 2:10? What bearing will it have on our attitude toward our conduct?
6. How does Ephesians 6:5-8 apply to attitude on the job?

How to Enjoy One's Work

No. 1 in a Series:

"Work That Brings Progress"

Proverbs 13:11; Matthew 20:8-16



Intermediate (12-14 YEARS)

— SEPTEMBER 4 —

theless. Paul, the apostle, spent several years in the wilderness of Arabia as a preparation for his herculean task. When we have learned the secret then we can say with Isaiah, "I will trust and will not be afraid."

Select a Life-long Task That Fits

In selecting a life-long task we should be determined to do the most worthwhile something of which we are capable. After the preliminary requirements of a task have been met and we have set our mind and hands to the doing of it, we will find in that labor's worthwhileness a feeling of importance, the knowledge that our living has a purpose, and the abiding satisfaction that comes from making a worthwhile contribution to society.

In choosing this life's work there are several things about which we must be careful. The first is the danger of being a one-talent person. All of us should and can be capable of two or five worthwhile tasks. There is security, independence, and a wider range of usefulness in being able to do a number of things well. The other thing is that we give each task a fair evaluation in the determination of its worthwhileness. Homemaking, for example, may seem very routine and useless to some while to others the work of the homemaker is to provide an ideal situation for moral and spiritual development. If we would possess a year-in and year-out willingness to labor we must do something worthwhile.

Consecration to Work Necessary

An old violin maker, when asked why he worked so hard, said: "Because I want my violins to be as nearly perfect as possible. Whenever I see any perfect thing, I rejoice. When I see things that are ugly and imperfect, I feel miserable. I want my work to add to the beauty of the world."

The spirit of consecration gives individuality to the work that we do. Too often we feel that we are merely a small cog in a great machine. No one in this day challenges the necessity for detailed work. We know that others are depending upon us, as individuals, to do our job well.

No matter how large the machine, each operation requires a thoroughly consecrated workman. No matter how numerous the operations, how multiple the hands, there is an operation that only our hands can do. Does not such need for devotion to a task sound strangely like the claim of One who said: "To this end have I been born, and to this end am I come into the world?"

Our Motto is Service

I know a young man who once worked for an electrical firm. He was called to a house to fix a fuse which had blown out because of a crossed wire. When he had finished that work, the lady of the house said to him,

"That fuse blew out because a wire in my electric iron wore through. I wonder if you would fix that, too, for me?"

The young man answered, "That is not supposed to be a part of my regular work, but I shall be glad to do it for you, Lady."

He did the work in a few minutes and he did it perfectly. When he had finished, the woman said, "I want to pay you something. What should I give you?"

He returned, "I am glad to do that work for you. I will not accept any pay. I work for a company the motto of which is 'Service.' I want to do my small part to make that motto real. Thanks just the same!"

Do you wonder that the woman called the company for which he worked and told that youth's employer about the little bit of "extra" service? Also, do you wonder that the young man was given a real promotion within a week after the incident happened?

Just how does a Christian worker differ from other workers? Is he Christian because he attends church on Sunday, or because he smiles at his work? It is far deeper than this. Even among laborers on the same job, there are definite characteristics which distinguish the genuine followers of Jesus, the carpenter.

The Christian laborer considers his work a divine calling. His vocation is a holy privilege and an exciting adventure. His work, like his worship, is an integral part of the way of life to which he has been called.

TEACH ME THE THRILL OF WORK

A Young Person's Prayer

by P. R. Hayward

God of Growth and Change, open my eyes to see the ceaseless labor going on in thy universe.

Show me the sweeping movements of the stars, the unending throb of atoms, the ceaseless pulsing of cells.

Enable me to sense the joyous and constant activity of ants and bees, of birds and beasts, of small children, and of great men and women.

Grant me wisdom to see that this constant round of effort is a part of thyself and of thy plan.

Fling me then, my Lord, into the unfinished work of thy world.

Teach me the thrill of stretched and pliant muscles.

Guide me into the joys of the active and creative mind.

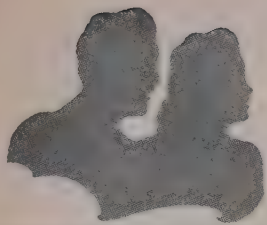
Let me find my deepest joy in resolute acts of will.

May I stand rejoicing beside the anvil of labor.

Use me in building thy better world. In the name of him who said, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." Amen. Permission BUILDERS

From The Book of Books

- M., Aug. 29. Making The Most of Our Resources. Luke 19:12-26.
T., Aug. 30. A Lesson On Sowing. II Cor. 9:6.
W., Aug. 31. Increasing Your Possessions. Proverbs 13:11.
T., Sept. 1. Working For The Right Thing. John 6:27.
F., Sept. 2. Good Advice. Romans 12:10-16.
S., Sept. 3. Admonished To Work. Haggai 2:4.
Sun., Sept 4. Topic—How To Enjoy One's Work. Proverbs 13:11; Matthew 20:8-16.



Christian Faith and MY LEISURE

No. 2 in a Series:
"Making My Faith Vital"

I Corinthians 10:31-33; Colossians 3:16,17

Senior-Young People (15-24 YEARS)

— SEPTEMBER 11 —

Comments by Earle W. Gates

Pattern For The Meeting

The leader of this meeting should make careful preparation for its success by these steps:

Pray for God's blessing and help.
Study the Bible selections given.
Read the following material, then add his own thoughts, experiences, and other illustrations.

Plan a brief Leader's Talk to make clear the purposes of the meeting.

Today we conclude the unit entitled *Making My Faith Vital*. Last week we began it with the topic appraising our daily work. This week we turn our thinking to the companion subject *Christian Faith and My Leisure*. The leader should strive to tie these topics together, under the general heading, for the maintaining of a vital faith is the first requirement. Both work-time and play-time should help build toward this goal. Either one can hinder the other rather than help, however, and the leader should try to point this out clearly. Try to see how the two can be integrated.

With the fall season opening before us, the society should be making new plans, both as individuals and as a society. The former can be aided by this topic. The latter can best be accomplished by a Planning Session in the near future. Let today's leader be the one to suggest and promote this project if it is not already under way.

In this meeting try to distinguish between leisure activities that are helpful and those that are harmful. Make a study of Christian leisure-time practices, and explain why they are good. Keep clearly in focus the idea that the proper use of leisure is a definite aid in keeping our faith vital and alive.

Christian Faith

It is good from time to time to "take inventory" of our spiritual resources. Especially at this season, when the more leisurely gait of summer is passing and the "get-up-and-at-em"

program of Autumn approaches, should we take stock of what we have. In Christianity it is unique that our greatest asset is intangible. Our major stock is faith. For two weeks we have been considering this faith in the light of the two great divisions of life, work and leisure. In all the experiences of life our faith is the cornerstone. If, and because, we believe in the Son of God as our Saviour, we are motivated to specific behavior. The fact that we believe in Him, and that we proclaim Him to be the Master of our lives, obligates us to live the way of life He prescribes. If we "have faith" that there is no God, then we are free to do whatsoever we choose in life; all the barriers are down. If, however, we believe there is a God who creates, redeems, directs, and judges, we must necessarily follow His Law, or be in eternal regret. Who would be so fool-hardy as to defy an all-wise, all-powerful God? Examine your beliefs then. What do you believe about God? What do you know about His will for you? What should you do about this divine requirement?

My Leisure

It has wisely been said that our characters are determined largely by what we do in our free time. By this is meant that what a person deliberately chooses to do, when there is no compulsion upon him, either reflects his inner nature, or else will condition him by the experiences he thus meets. The things we must do are often out of our control. Family, school, church, the very folkways of our civilization, hold us to a rather circumscribed schedule. These force us into certain definite moulds, and only the rebel or the misfit radically departs from these ways.

However, there are definite spaces of time allotted to each individual, in which each one can do largely what he chooses to do. These may be stolen moments, they may be very brief or very long, they may even be intermingled with the times of "must." But fleeting moments though they may be, they are our own. This in part represents our leisure time. During these moments, hours or days, we determine our future character to considerable degree. This is a privilege granted everyone. Leisure should be carefully weighed, and intelligently used.

My Faith And My Leisure

Here again our beliefs and convictions, our faith, will determine the way this free time will be spent. Leisure-time and play-time are not synonymous, although they are closely related. What we do in this time is determined by, and in turn influences, our character. Leisure may offer many opportunities for personal growth. Study in special fields will be possible.

Aim of the Topic

1. To determine how one can be Christian in his leisure time.
2. To see how this makes faith more vital.

Discussing a Vital Faith

1. What do we mean by "a vital faith"?
2. Why is it desirable?
3. How does our leisure-time activity contribute to a growing faith?
4. How do our leisure-time practices reflect our Christian faith?
5. How do these practices contribute to our future character?
6. Discuss the implications and results in the various choices listed under "Some of the Tests."
7. Add other possible conflicts in our choices.
8. Discuss the wise use of leisure time. How can it add most to our total well-being?
9. What is the difference between play-time and leisure-time?
10. How could we in our society put part of our total leisure time together in helpful service for our church?

New and valuable friendships can be made. Athletic ability, or special crafts, can be improved. There are open doors of opportunity for body, mind, and soul in our every leisure moment. But our faith will help us to weigh the values.

Some Of The Tests

Use of our time, especially that called leisure, always calls for a calculated choice. In every moment there are perhaps several things we would like to do. Some things we know we ought to do. But only one can be chosen! That is why the choice reflects the character, the inner desires, and the future result.

To draw some typical examples, the difference would be seen in the following choices: (1) To hang around a pool room or to play tennis or baseball; (2) To study or to play; (3) To read or to watch a television "thriller"; (4) To "grab" a quick smoke or drink, or to pause to speak a few helpful words, or help with someone's problems; (5) To go to church and Sunday school, or to "sleep in"; (6) To go to Christian Endeavor, or to a movie or date; (7) To share experiences with the family, or to always to go with the gang; (8) To use spare moments for a Quiet Hour (prayer, Bible, meditation), or to waste it or use for some harmful practice. It is evident by the very contrast of these and many other choices that our beliefs and desires may often be in conflict. Even when the choice is between two good opportunities, let Christian faith make the decision. The test may be difficult, but the results will be worth while. Even sacrifice is required in building a vital faith.

A SEED THOUGHT

"Our character is determined by what we do in our free time."

Scripture References

- M., Sept. 5. Visitation. Acts 16:13, 14.
T., Sept. 6. Understanding God Better. Psalm 81:9; 19:1-6.
W., Sept. 7. Learning From God's Creations. Prov. 30:24-28.
T., Sept. 8. Appreciate The Past. Psalm 77:5, 6, 10-12.
F., Sept. 9. Self-Control Necessary. I Cor. 9:25-27.
S., Sept. 10. Personal Conduct. Psalm 101:1, 2.
Sun., Sept. 11. Topic—Christian Faith and My Leisure. I Cor. 10:31-33; Colossians 3:16, 17.

Our Aims

1. To define the "why" of school.
2. To set goals for the new school year.
3. To learn how to be "good stewards of the mind."

Making School Years Yield Results

No. 2 in a Series:

"Work That Brings Progress"

II Peter 1:1-9; Proverbs 2:1-9



Comments by Raymond M. Veb

Which Are You?

"Happy-go-lucky Harry" is a kind of school-room space cadet. He spends a large portion of class time exploring other worlds than the one he happens to live in. He has ability, but never tries to measure up to it, never studies hard, and his interest in the recitation centers chiefly on his chances of not being called upon.

When the assignment for the next day's lesson is made, Harry gives only partial attention, taking the attitude that he'll check up on it later with some other member of the class. Often he lets the matter slide entirely and comes to class with no preparation. He is wasteful of time in school study periods, inventing excuses to avoid work, and getting by because of his native ability rather than because of effort to learn.

Besides all this, Harry has only one habit with regard to home study and that is to postpone it as long as possible. He has a million excuses for not doing his assignments "right now" and hence, they are never done thoroughly, and many times not done at all. So far as term papers and reports are concerned he puts them off until the last moment. Little wonder that Harry comes to the end of the term never sure whether he'll pass or have to repeat.

Sam, on the other hand, makes the most of his hours in school. He listens attentively in class, gets his assignments clearly in mind, uses the library as much as time permits. At home he harnesses a well-known workhorse, habit. Study takes its place in the orderly routine of things. Not only does he have a regular time for it, preferably before he is worn out mentally and physically; but also he has a regular place, isolated as much as possible in an atmosphere conducive to work. In general, he plans his studying by the job or assignment, rather than by the clock. Hence he tends to work more efficiently.

Furthermore, he tries to duplicate as much as possible the conditions under which he will have to take tests. He trains himself to study rapidly and under a self-imposed pressure so that when the "big events" come he will fall naturally into the kind of mental strides that assure victory.

Thus Sam receives the most cherished prize school has to offer: The ability to think things out for himself through systematic study and concentration. The hours he spends attaining this prize are not given grudgingly, for he has accepted one very fundamental fact: That school work is for his own train-

Intermediate (12-14 YEARS)

— SEPTEMBER 11 —

ing and growth. Maybe that's why they call him "successful." Are you like Sam or Harry?

When You Cheat What Do You Get?

Christian boys and girls may help establish the practice of honesty in school work. If each one does his best, careless customs, often dishonest, such as borrowing each other's papers, will be forgotten. There is a difference between helping a pal learn the way to solve a difficult problem, and letting him copy your work. Is there a reputation for honest work and individual effort in your school? Let each one do his best!

Learn To Know Your Teachers Better

Teachers are usually willing to be our friends if we wish them. Jesus said to His disciples: "I have not called you servants, but friends." Do you meet your teachers on the basis of friendship? Teachers and leaders like to know a pupil is reliable. Our friends expect us to keep our promises. Our teachers expect us to keep our agreements.

Unexpectedly an intermediate girl received an invitation to take a trip to Nashville, visit Andrew Jackson's home, and places she had long wanted to see. She refused, because she had promised to take part in a school program, and it was too late to find a substitute. The program would have been incomplete without her share. Her teachers found her dependable. People like to know that they can count on us. Do you know your teachers out of school as well as in the classroom? Jesus' followers especially liked to be with Him, from day to day.

Let's consider our teachers as human beings. Miss Smith wears the same dress three days of every week, but she supports a blind mother and she makes you like poetry. Mr. Hanks was rejected by the army but your a cappella choirs have provided good music for every community function. And "Hatchface" Brown is hard on loafers and keeps you after school, we know. But you do learn biology so that you'll never forget it.

Develop and Show School Spirit

We may show our school spirit by being helpful and friendly. If there is a new pupil at school this year he may like for you to explain to him the customs and practices of his new school. Do you belong to a small crowd or gang? If so, a thrill is awaiting you in the discovery of a new friend right in your town. When news came of the death of a fourteen-year-old boy in a certain Mississippi town an Italian man and wife knocked at his parents' door, saying: "We've come to say we're sorry. Your boy was a friend to our boy." His parents only then learned the kindly friendliness their son had given an Italian boy who lived "on the other side of town."

If your class is small and you feel you are all well acquainted, then perhaps you will want to go a step farther and plan some new things to do together. Does your school need a new flag? Some books or magazines? Could you work together and earn them? Would you be interested in making and painting some flower boxes, and filling them with soil, so that a primary room might have a flower garden? Working together is an excellent way to show school spirit.

Disciples are Learners and Sharers

Being a student is just like learning to be a citizen or a church member. You meet all kinds of people and the ones who scare you most are the ones who most need your help. Why not try to be thoroughly Christian this year, regular in attendance, faithful with responsibilities, alert to new ideas, tolerant of peculiar people, forgiving and long-suffering. You can teach others while you learn. The men whom Jesus knew best were disciples or "learners."

Don't skip one opportunity to say a word, or lift a load, or perform some act which would show someone the love of Christ! Use the opportunity to get in a spoken word of testimony whenever possible. A person can hardly be converted merely by seeing you live a good life. He must know what is back of the life you lead. Invite your friends to church with you in the same way that they invite you to their activities.

Suggested Program

1. *Call to Worship.* (The responses may be said by a few people or by the whole group.)

Leader: "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thy heart, and in the sight of thine eyes." (Eccles. 11:9.)

Response: "Remember also thy Creator in the days of thy youth." (Eccles. 12:10.)

All: "With my whole heart have I sought thee! Oh, let me not wander from thy commandments." (Ps. 119:10.)

2. *Hymn:* "Come, Thou Almighty King," "Fairest Lord Jesus," "For the Beauty of the Earth" (stanzas 1 and 4).

3. *Talk:* "Showing a Christian Spirit Toward Others at School."

4. *Scripture:* Zech. 8:16, 17.

5. *Talk:* "Learning to Know Our Teachers Better."

6. *Poem:* "The Carpenter Shop."

7. *Talk:* "Doing Our Best."

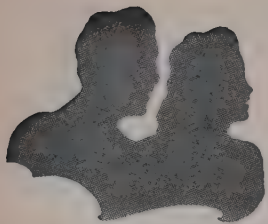
8. *Prayer:* by the leader or adult counselor. This prayer should be carefully thought out, brief, sincere. It should express the desire of boys and girls to show a Christian spirit in all activities of school life.

9. *Scripture:* I John 1:5-10. Followed by topic presentation.

10. *Hymn:* "I Would Be True," or "True-Hearted, Whole-Hearted."

Scripture References

- | | | |
|-----------------|--|------------------------------|
| M., Sept. 5. | Abiding In Christ. | John 15:5-7. |
| T., Sept. 6. | Making Way For God's Will. | Matt 26:39. |
| W., Sept. 7. | Filled With The Holy Ghost. | Acts 2:1-4. |
| T., Sept. 8. | A Friend of God. | James 2:20-23. |
| F., Sept. 9. | Helping One Another. | I Thess. 2:5-12. |
| S., Sept. 10. | Being Considerate. | Eph. 4:29-32. |
| Sun., Sept. 11. | Topic—Making School Years Yield Results. | II Peter 1:1-9; Prov. 2:1-9. |



New Projects for Our Society

No. 1 in a Series:
"Chart Your Course"

James 2:14-26

Senior-Young People (15-24 YEARS)

— SEPTEMBER 18 —

Comments by Earle W. Gates

Pattern For The Meeting

The leader of this meeting should make careful preparation for its success by these steps:

- Pray for God's blessing and help.
- Study the Bible selections given.
- Read the following material, then add his own thoughts, experiences, and other illustrations.
- Plan a brief Leader's Talk to make clear the purposes of the meeting.

During the fall of the year, our minds turn to routine schedules and more activity. So it must ever be in Christian Endeavor. This is the time when societies reorganize, secure new members, and plan new programs. These two topics in this series should help do just as their title says, *Chart Your Course*. This first one titled *New Projects For Our Society* is designed to help the societies themselves by giving more of themselves for others. The next one *Work That Promotes My Church* is to encourage the society to plan activities that turn the young people toward the Church.

If possible have the executive committee (officers and counsellors) meet together beforehand to plan a tentative year's program. In this week's discussion, emphasize chiefly work and study projects that help advance the society. Remember the cardinal principle "Service For Christ." Use the Four Cardinal Principles of Christian Endeavor in "charting your course" for the year. They are (1) Confession of Christ (2) Service for Christ (3) Loyalty to Christ's Church (4) Fellowship with all of Christ's people.

"Service For Christ"

This is the second of the four cardinal principles of Christian Endeavor, and is of great importance to youth. The Christian Endeavor motto is "For Christ and the Church" with the word "service" implied but not visible. Dr. Francis E. Clark, the founder of Christian Endeavor, and those first Endeavorers must have felt that service was of prime importance to this new youth movement.

It seems reasonable that individuals and organizations cannot be successful if they live and work for themselves alone. An individual concerned only with himself and his needs is a shallow, unlikeable person. The same is true of organizations. Christian Endeavorers must be very careful that they do not allow all their plans to center about themselves. A good rule for every Christian to put to practice is to remember the three persons or groups that

A Seed Thought

"Never idle a moment, but thrifty and thoughtful of others."
—Longfellow.

he must be concerned with. First — Christ; second — others; and third — himself. As you plan your society program for the coming year, see if you have followed this rule. How can it apply to a society?

Work For Others

Besides the society's regular recreation or social program which is important, times other than regular meetings should be set aside for work projects for others. Supporting CROP, CARE, and other philanthropic projects are good, but if you depend on them for all your activity for others, you become stagnant. Secure new ideas also. Missionaries always need help. Visual aids can be prepared for them, school supplies can be gathered for children, scrap paper or scratch pads assembled. An ideal way to know how to best help is to choose certain missions and write them asking for suggestions of ways to help. Homes for orphan, crippled, and sick children can use scrap books, food, parties and surprise packages. They, too, would be glad to tell of their needs. Service camps welcome good entertainment and food parcels. Migrant labor camps offer a challenge.

Next week's topic will emphasize the home church, but don't forget the cleaning, painting and fixing needed around the church buildings. There is always equipment in need of repair. The pastor can easily find projects to be done for the church office.

The younger societies in the church usually need help at their weekly meetings, at socials, and on project get-togethers. Volunteer your help. Offer assistance to other churches to help their young people get organized. Become active in a local Christian Endeavor union. (Help organize one if there is none at present.)

Develop a plan for bringing cheer to the sick and shut-ins in the community. They enjoy flowers, sunshine baskets, tape recordings of sermons and special gatherings, pictures and slides, song fests, and many other enjoyable pastimes.

An ideal project for others to be done easily by a group of young people would be to get permission from an elderly, poor, or shut-in family to fix their home. Cutting grass, shoveling snow, planting flowers, trimming hedges, mending fences, painting, washing windows, putting up storm windows or screens, etc., can be loads of fun when done for some one who can't afford it or hasn't the strength to do it.

Study To Grow

It is too often forgotten that as new members come into a society new teaching and training in leadership is needed. When this is overlooked, we soon find a society that does not know where it is heading.

The *Christian Endeavor Essentials* course should be taught once a year in order to acquaint young people with the purpose of

Aim of the Topic

1. To help plan the year's program.
2. To plan new projects.
3. To improve the society.

Think, Then Plan

1. Did our society serve others in the past year? Give proof of your answer.
2. Name the four cardinal principles. Is our society following and practicing each one?
3. How do you plan to serve others this year? Have you set dates for working these projects?
4. What study projects will you endorse? Make definite plans now.
5. How does the "Seed Thought" fit into the topic?
6. What greater service for others could our society render? For our church?
7. Can we enjoy our work together more by serving others or ourselves? Why?
8. Set a date now for a program-planning conference.
9. How can we relate our society program to the International theme "Christ Shall Reign"?
10. What is the benefit of "charting your course" in advance?

their organization. This is the best way to point out the duties of officers. This book can be secured from the International Society of Christian Endeavor for a dollar. If it has never been taught, have your pastor, counsellor, or other capable person make plans now.

Make arrangements for Bible study. If your church has Bible study or prayer meetings, encourage attendance on the part of the society members. If not, hold your own.

Ask your pastor to tell your group about missionary projects of your church. Try to secure one of the missionaries when home on furlough.

Study about your denomination and others. Learn about Protestantism. Know what you believe and why. Do something about these things.

What Is The Gain?

Even though the Scripture lesson for today has been read previously, read it again, perhaps responsively, asking the question, "What is the gain of serving others?"

Christian Endeavorers have faith in the Maker and in their Lord, but that is not enough. A Christian must have "works" along with his faith. "Faith without works is dead." (James 2:26).

Verse 19 of James 2 is interesting. Little praise need be given to the believer; even the devils believe there is a God and tremble. If we believe, we must show and prove our faith by the works that we do. The two, faith and works, must go hand in hand. Plan out a good balanced society program for the year, then work out your plan.

Bible Messages

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| M., Sept. 12. | The Christian's Armor. | Eph. 6:13-18 |
| T., Sept. 13. | Stedfast in the Truth. | II Thess. 2:1, 2 |
| W., Sept. 14. | Build An Altar. | Exodus 27:1-8 |
| T., Sept. 15. | Take A Trip. | Genesis 12:6-9 |
| F., Sept. 16. | Be A Witness. | Hebrews 12:1, 2 |
| S., Sept. 17. | Study Our Neighbors. | Acts 10:9-10: 34, 35 |
| Sun., Sept. 18. | Topic—New Projects for Our Society. | James 2:14-26 |

Our Aims

1. To look ahead to the new church year.
2. To get the society members to plan for a forward movement.
3. To decide on projects which will advance Christ's church.

New Projects for Our Society

No. 3 in a Series:

"Work That Brings Progress"

Matthew 25:31-40; Philippians 3:7-14



Comments by Raymond M. Veb

Ships for a Successful C. E. Voyage

The following program may be presented by seven Intermediates. Each displays a placard cut in the shape of a ship with lettering such as "leadership," and so forth. The director makes a preliminary statement introducing the playlet.

Leadership: The success of the work of the Christian Endeavor depends on the quality of its leadership. The members will not go further in plans and in development than their leaders inspire them to go. The leadership must be consecrated, informed, enthusiastic and active. "In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works." (Read Titus 2:7).

Followship: Members of the Christian Endeavor must be willing to follow where their leaders and officers lead. A union that will not follow wise leadership nor heed wise counsel will not only break the fine spirit of good leaders but will utterly fail in training for the service of Christ. "If any man serve me, let him follow me." (John 12:26.)

Fellowship: Fellowship in Christian service is one of the greatest joys that comes to a Christian's heart. As we train together in the Christian Endeavor we should be strengthened by our Christian love and sympathetic cooperation with one another, and by a consciousness of the presence of God. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another." (John 1:7.)

Friendship: Friendship is a natural and happy result of working together with common aim and interests in the Christian Endeavor. Friends made in training together for Christian service will be friends who will stand the tests of time and trial. "The soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David; and Jonathan loved him as his own soul." (1 Samuel 18:1.)

Worship: As we train together in the Christian Endeavor we will also worship together, and as we train for more effective service we will improve our ability to worship God as a group and as individuals. "God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24.)

Hardship: No sailor expects to "sail the seven seas" without encountering hardships. The difficulties which we meet during our Christian Endeavor voyage will strengthen our Christian character if we face them fairly. "Endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (2 Timothy 2:3.)

Stewardship: Every Christian should be in training as a good steward seeking to develop and utilize to the fullest extent the talents, time, and material possessions which God has entrusted to him. "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." (1 Corinthians 4:2.)

Intermediate (12-14 YEARS)

— SEPTEMBER 18 —

Plan Future Work

Every group should have a project on which it works continuously. What is a project?

1. A project constitutes a problem
 - a. close at hand,
 - b. vitally related to the group or individuals in the group,
 - c. that needs solution for the welfare of individuals or the betterment of the community.
2. A project is a need that ought to be met:
 - a. Sometimes it is a felt need.
 - b. Often it is understood only by leaders who have a vision.
3. A project is a work that will strengthen the local church, the communion, and the Kingdom.
4. A project is activity that permits forward steps in character for those who participate.
5. A project acquaints those who participate with national issues and human needs the world over and leads to the solution of them.

Consider These Projects

1. Establish a pastor's assistant committee which will come into the church once a week to work in the church office or church program. Members will find this a time of great fellowship and will feel that they are carrying a real share of the church's task.
2. Develop a chapel in some suitable room in the church.
3. Study religious art and select suitable pictures for rooms used by adults in the church.
4. Conduct a "Bible Study Month."
5. Have Candlelight service on Christmas eve.
 - a. Service to begin at 7:30 or 8 p.m.
 - b. Young people to have charge.
 - c. After service the group to go carolling.
6. Take charge of Sunday School.
 - a. Young people acting as officers, including teachers and superintendents for that day.
7. Support an orphan in foreign country, e.g. Greek child.
 - a. Sunday school class of girls contribute approximately \$15.00 per month.
 - b. Send packages to this orphan.
8. Send CARE packages, seed packets overseas. Send Christmas packages to home and foreign mission stations.
9. Make stuffed toys for orphanages, either at home or abroad.
 - a. Special interest to girls.
10. Urge young people to attend evangelistic services, Week of Prayer or Holy Week services by giving them recognition for attendance.
11. Arrange a service with young people of another race or races. After the service have a fellowship hour.

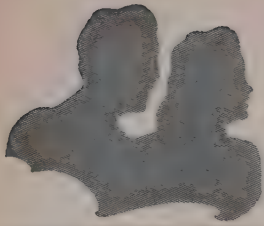
Some Projects to Raise Money

If you are going to undertake some of the projects mentioned above you will need to raise some money. Here are ideas:

- I. Talent Night
 1. Recreation Committee is in charge, with sub-committees named to assist.
 2. List the talent available.
 3. Organize the talent for a balanced program.
 4. Promotion of program either through selling tickets or free-will offering.
 5. Methods of advertising.
 - a. Posters
 - b. Bulletins
 - c. Door-to-door canvassing
 6. Christian Endeavor Members make candy to sell to add to funds.
 7. A formal tea may be held after the event with free-will offering taken.
- II. Car Washing
 1. Get Christian Endeavor members to agree what day all will help.
 2. Name a central place where cars can be brought. Assure owners one responsible leader will be present.
 3. Solicit cars to wash from the congregation's members and explain what the money raised from the project is for.
 4. Plan picnic lunch for CE members on the day of washing cars.
- III. Baby-Sitting Project
 1. Discuss project and secure cooperation of CE members.
 2. Have a chairman to arrange the sittings.
 3. Advertise the services offered and prices (fair).
 4. Boys may pick up girls and take them home at later hours as their share.
- IV. Box Suppers
 1. Arrange games for part of evening's entertainment.
 2. "Back to school party games" and contests, as found in recreation book may provide suggestions.
 3. Girls make boxes and boys bid on them.
 4. Announce money goes into treasury and it is hoped all will come prepared to bid high. Weigh the girls with box; a penny a pound may be starting figure.
 5. Try to get competitive bidding for boxes.

Bible Readings

- M., Sept. 12. The Christian's Armour. Eph. 6:13-18.
T., Sept. 13. Stedfast In The Truth. II Thess. 2:1, 2.
W., Sept. 14. Build An Altar. Exodus 27:1-8.
T., Sept. 15. Take A Trip. Genesis 12:6-9.
F., Sept. 16. Be A Witness. Hebrews 12:1, 2.
S., Sept. 17. Study Our Neighbors. Acts 10:9, 10; 34, 35.
Sun., Sept. 18. Topic—New Projects For Our Society. Matt. 25:31-40; Phil. 3:7-14.



Work That Promotes My Church

No. 2 in a Series:
"Chart Your Course"

I Corinthians 3:6-15

Senior-Young People (15-24 YEARS)

— SEPTEMBER 25 —

Comments by Earle W. Gates

Pattern For The Meeting

The leader of this meeting should make careful preparation for its success by these steps:

- Pray for God's blessing and help.
- Study the Bible selections given.
- Read the following material, then add his own thoughts, experiences, and other illustrations.
- Plan a brief Leader's Talk to make clear the purposes of the meeting.

"Chart Your Course" — what possibility that stirs up in the imagination! We are plunging headlong into a new church-year of activity, into a season of planning and doing. Chart the Course sounds like fun and adventure; it also sounds like a sensible way to enter the Fall Christian Endeavor program. Surely we will not travel far or well in our society year unless we know where we are going, how to get there, and by whose leadership. Set up that Planning Conference now, and set your sails for a great voyage in 1955-56.

Today the topic *Work That Promotes My Church* concludes the topic study begun last week. At that time we looked at new projects and program for the society. This is needful, for there must be a well-organized society with a well-planned program, in order to have a dynamic youth group that will attract other young people. So often the members wonder "Why can't we get more young people out," and they have not bothered to lay out an attractive program. There's little valid reason why a group of half-interested youngsters looking for a good time should come and confine themselves to a dull meeting in a society that has no plans or program. It needs zip to make it move! Planning pays off always. In order to have the kind of youth group that is desired, adequate "charting" of the course ahead is essential.

One of the most valuable parts of the program, and one that will perhaps command more response from the youth of church and community, is that part which promotes and serves your own church. In this meeting try to find what are the needs of your church. Then definitely set goals for meeting those needs. Emphasize the third of Christian Endeavor's Four Cardinal Principles. Consult with the pastor and perhaps the Church leaders. Unless something positive and definite for the good of the Church comes from this meeting, it will have been something of a failure.

A SEED THOUGHT

"The Christian Endeavor Society is a part of, not apart from, the local church."

Loyalty To Christ's Church

While last week's topic directed our thinking to *Service For Christ*, this one focuses directly on the service rendered to His Church. This is embodied in the Third Cardinal Principle of Christian Endeavor, *Loyalty To Christ's Church*. (Remember the other three principles?) Service is always the keynote of the Christian Endeavor Movement, and it is the natural expression of the love and faith possessed by young people. Assuredly, if a Christian young man or woman acknowledges Christ to be Saviour and Lord, then he will want to do something to give evidence of it. Service, that which we *do*, expresses how we feel. If, by the same token, we join and love the Church, we will earnestly desire to do all possible to advance it.

The Christian Endeavor Society, or Youth Fellowship, that has its birth in the local Church, and is dependent upon it for its life and purpose, is obligated in the same manner to give tangible evidence of its loyalty and sincerity. It must ever be remembered, the Society is a *part* of the Church, not *apart* from it. It is not a "Junior Church" or a Club, or an independent entity unto itself. Rather it must be an integrated, living, working part of the Body of Christ, that we know as the Church.

Work For Others

There is no greater joy than that received by working for others. "That which a man does for himself dies with him: what he does for others lives forever." To lose oneself, as an individual, in serving others is to help make a saint. To lose ourselves, as organizations, in service for Christ and the Church is to assure the success and blessing of the organization. Unselfishness is the key to true greatness. Work is the energizing process required in going through the doorway to this greatness. When our work is for the Church, both the accomplishments and the rewards are of eternal worth.

Work For The Church

Too often it has been claimed that Christian Endeavor is too much removed from the life of the local church. It will be well for each society to think seriously on the matter of using the society to promote the church. The leaders for this meeting will be wise in consulting with the pastor and other leaders in gathering material for discussion. Seek to learn the needs of the church, and how they may best be met.

Endeavorers should be practical in their service for the church. Strive to do the things that really need to be done, especially the things that may be neglected by other groups. Some things are essential in a church program; others are things that are just nice to do if possible. Do the first things first. Unselfishness

THINK, THEN PLAN

1. What has our society done to serve the church?
2. What good has been accomplished by these services?
3. What are the reasons for a Christian Endeavor society rendering service for its church?
4. How can we serve "The Church" outside our own local congregation?
5. What are the deeper spiritual needs of our church that the young people might help to meet?
6. What are its other needs?
7. What would we need to set about doing these tasks?
8. How can we BEST promote our church?
9. Name a few things we could do to make the pastor's work lighter, or more effective.
10. What is loyalty to Christ's Church? How can we best show it?

and the true spirit of service will show here, especially in doing the hard or "unpopular" things. One group showed this spirit in volunteering to serve the monthly supper for Church Visitation Evangelism Teams during Christmas Week. They said, "We'll take the week; others probably won't want to take it then." By this spirit the Church moves on!

There are many types of service that can be rendered. Each church must determine its own most urgent needs. Among them are the following:

Clerical work for pastor, or in church office.

Youth Evangelism efforts, or assistance to the adult program.

Assistance in Every Member or other canvass, census, surveys, etc.

Preparing and/or delivering weekly bulletins.

Assume publicity responsibilities for church and its organizations; newspapers, posters, "Christian Endeavor World," etc.

Janitorial service for the church, inside and out.

Painting, decorating, landscaping, etc.

Set up a service committee for the parish.

Use bicycles, cars, telephones, typewriters, homes, for specific services.

Raise money for Christian Education Conferences, Missions, or other worthwhile purposes.

Provide a Sick Committee, or Welfare Committee, for the needy.

Prepare or serve meals for special church events.

There are scores of other needed services. Add your own list.

From The Book of Books

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|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| M., Sept. 19. | Things That Count. | |
| T., Sept. 20. | Be An Example. | II Tim. 2:2 |
| W., Sept. 21. | Tell Others. | I Tim. 4:12 |
| T., Sept. 22. | Hospitality. | Titus 1:1 |
| F., Sept. 23. | Bear Fruit. | John 15:5 |
| S., Sept. 24. | Observe Pure Religion. | James 1:27 |
| Sun., Sept. 25. | Topic—Work that Promotes My Church. | I Cor. 3:6-15 |

Our Aims

1. To develop loyalty to our church.
2. To plan that which will "glorify Christ" through the Church.
3. To stimulate other youth to serve the Church.

Work That Promotes My Church

No. 4 in a Series:

"Work That Brings Progress"

II Corinthians 8:1-5; Nehemiah 4:6



Comments by Raymond M. Veb

Our Scripture

When the New Testament speaks of the Church, the writers have in mind either a local congregation of Christians or all Christians throughout the world. In reality, the Church is the fellowship of those who have believed in Christ and surrendered themselves to Him. So we may have a local church made up of Christians in a certain locality, or the Church made up of all Christians throughout the world.

The Church is made up of all who believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God (Matt. 6:16-18). Those who make up the Church gather for worship and prayer (Matt. 18:15-20). People are brought into the fellowship of the Church through belief in Christ, repentance from sin, and baptism into His name (Acts 2:38). Those who are in the fellowship of the Church are joined into a fellowship which is like a body (1 Cor. 12:12-27). A Christian may be compared to a temple within which God makes His dwelling place on earth (Eph. 2:13-22). They are inseparably joined in faith and love (Eph. 4:1-6). It is this wonderful fellowship about which the Scriptures speak when the church is mentioned. How can we achieve this ideal in our communities?)

Nehemiah demonstrates the loyalty of one who loved God's Kingdom and gave himself to building up the walls of Jerusalem. How can we pattern after him?

When Members Work Together

Every Christian Endeavor wants to be part of a church where the members work together and where each member has a part, a job to do. Unity is important in any organization, it serves to strengthen, to enlarge and to create interest and participation. A member of the Church who belongs to a creative, vital group, who has any responsibility for anyone or anything, becomes more an actual part of the organization. In working for the Church one comes into a fuller realization of God and the functions of Christianity.

The Church must have unity of purpose and membership. Unless Christians stand together and work together to accomplish their aims, the Church cannot last long and cer-

Intermediate (12-14 YEARS)

— SEPTEMBER 25 —

tainly will not progress. Jesus illustrated this in a rebuke to the Pharisees long ago when He said: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand."

For this reason young people often participate in the service on Christian Endeavor Sunday, and different groups have certain church duties. The members and the church as a whole gain from individual participation. As we all invest our talents in God's work the Church progresses.

Start with Worship

Would you like to make the time spent in church help you and others to worship? Perhaps the following may help you.

1. Come at the appointed hour, not a few minutes late.
2. Refrain from all conversation.
3. Have a reverent manner.
4. Offer a prayer for the people, the minister, and yourself.
5. Never read the bulletin or hymnbook or anything else during the sermon, and especially not during the Scripture reading.
6. If sitting at the end of the pew when another is shown to the seat, either move along to make room or stand that the other may pass.
7. Remember that the giving of the offering is an act of worship, even as is the taking of the communion.
8. Give the minister the encouragement of your thoughtful and earnest attention.
9. Except when necessary, never leave the church until after the benediction.
10. Show friendliness to all whom you meet in the church.
11. Add anything else that you think would help.

Our Obligation to Invest Some Efforts

Many things we enjoy today represent hard work. But they are just blessings of modern life, so why not take them for granted and enjoy them? Why should we put hard work into something just because our fathers and mothers before us had to do so?

But the Church is not an invention perfected and completed for us. It is something that will not go on itself. All the efforts of the past two thousand years will be lost if youth do not work as hard at the job as their forefathers worked.

The greatest need of the Church is not for people to die for it, or for money. The greatest need is for the time and energy of its members. Of time and energy the young group has plenty and to spare. The ques-

tion is are we willing to use our time and energy for the Church or do we feel abused if we have to give up some good time of our own for the work of the church.

If time permits this point could well be discussed to the place where a definite conclusion is reached as to *how much* time we should feel belongs to the church.

Some Tasks for Youth

Just what are some tasks to which youth can put their hands in doing their part to do the work of the church?

Without some definite answers to this question the important emphasis of this lesson will be missed. Two or three members of the round table should have interviewed (1) the pastor, (2) the Sunday School superintendent, (3) a trustee of the church and other representatives of the church before time for this service. This interview would have given the information as to necessary tasks, now not being done, which the younger group could well undertake.

In addition to the suggestions made by these persons call attention to such work as:

- a. Assisting the pastor in making telephone calls; letter writing, etc.
- b. Bring the matter of the church to the attention of friends and acquaintances who are now not interested.
- c. Each one doing his best to make every service and social event what it ought to be, thus attracting outsiders to the church.
- d. Every member of the group contributing regularly to the church budget.
- e. Sacrifice some time and personal pleasure if necessary to make the work of the Sunday school classes, the Christian Endeavor and the church in general interesting enough so others will want to join our group.

This part of the discussion can be extended almost indefinitely. We suggest the pastor be asked to be present for this conclusion to help the group decide on the things most necessary to be done.

Suggested Program

Song—"Jesus Calls Us."

Leader—I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send and who will go for me.

Response—Then said I, Here am I; send me.

First Reader—I heard Christ call,

"Come, follow"—that was all.

My gold grew dim, my heart went after Him.

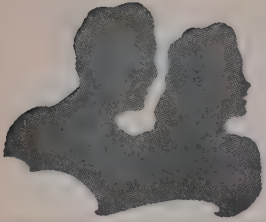
I rose and followed, that was all;

Who would not follow if he heard Christ call?

(Please turn to Page 30, Col. 1)

For Daily Meditation

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Sept. 19. Things That Count. | II Tim. 2:22. |
| Sept. 20. Be An Example. | I Tim. 4:12. |
| Sept. 21. Tell Others. | II Tim. 4:1-5. |
| Sept. 22. Hospitality. | Titus 1:8. |
| Sept. 23. Bear Fruit. | John 15:5, 8. |
| Sept. 24. Observe Pure Religion. | James 1:27. |
| Sept. 25. Topic—Work That Promotes My Church. | II Cor. 8:1-5; Nehemiah 4:6. |



Amos: Indignant Shepherd

No. 1 in a Series:
"Minor Prophets Who Became Heroes"
Amos 5:14; 6:1-6; 8:1-6

Senior-Young People (15-24 YEARS)

— OCTOBER 2 —

Comments by Earle W. Gates

Pattern For The Meeting

The leader of this meeting should make careful preparation for its success by these steps:

Pray for God's blessing and help.
Study the Bible selections given.
Read the following material, then add his own thoughts, experiences, and other illustrations.

Plan a brief Leader's Talk to make clear the purposes of the meeting.

This is a first of a series of three topics which emphasize three of the minor prophets who were truly heroes. Today we shall study about *Amos, The Indignant Shepherd*. The next two meetings will be on *Hosea: Forgiving Husband* and *Micah: Champion of Peace*.

As a result of the study of today's prophet, Amos, the society ought to develop a sensitivity toward the social problems which we face, such as the housing problem, labor and race problems, social injustice and inequality.

One cannot fail to note Amos' humility, yet his indignation and action. He was a "simple shepherd," yet a prophet of God. He heard his call by God, and followed without hesitation. Although he had been unnoticed as a shepherd, he became a hero when he answered the call of his Lord.

The Situation Then

During the time when Amos lived the people of the kingdom of Israel were enjoying one of their few times of being a wealthy, prosperous, and powerful nation. The Israelites had finally conquered all the enemy countries about them. They then felt strong and proud of their nation. The country had become wealthy. All over the land were fine homes and big estates. The rulers, priests, and merchants all had abundance of money to spend.

But there were also many poor people in the country. For them it was a terrible and dreadful time. The money in the country was in the hands of a few people. Most of the people were very, very poor; many no better off than slaves. They worked hard and earned little money, barely enough to live. The rich merchants not only charged high prices, but they even cheated the poor, and stole their land.

Bible Portion

- M., Sept. 26. The Condemnation of Nations. Amos 1 and 2.
T., Sept. 27. The Call of Amos. Amos 7:14, 15.
W., Sept. 28. Famine of God's Word. Amos 8:11-14.
T., Sept. 29. Prophecy of Desolation. Amos 9:1-10.
F., Sept. 30. Restoration of David's Tabernacle. Amos 9:11-15.
S., Oct. 1. A Plea Before God. Psalm 102:1, 2.
Sun., Oct. 2. Topic—Amos: Indignant Shepherd. Amos 5:14 6:1-6; 8:1-6.

The king and his rulers were interested only in securing more power, more glory, and more money. They had no interest or concern for the poor. One might expect that the priests of the church would protect the poor and preach against these evils, but this was not so. They were fully as wicked as the merchants and rulers. Some set up altars to heathen idols, others only appeared to be worshiping, merely going through the form of worship.

Even the judges and law courts were on the wealthy people's side. Into this state of affairs came Amos.

Amos' Reaction

A poor shepherd, Amos, lived by himself in a lonely section of the country. Preaching or being a prophet of God had never occurred to him. God spoke to Amos, asking him to be His prophet. He was to go to the people of Israel and tell them of their sins. Amos neither refused nor hesitated; he obeyed God's will. A prophet must speak for God.

Amos needed only to travel through the land of Israel to see how the rich people lived and ruled, how the poor were mistreated and sold as slaves, how idols were being worshipped. He was then more than ready to preach as God wanted him to do, to correct these evils.

He was God-fearing, honest, and sincere. He was too concerned by the conditions to fear punishment, imprisonment, or hatred. Rather, he boldly condemned the leaders for their wickedness. He warned that God would punish them and their country if they did not change their ways.

As the news spread about Amos' preaching, Amaziah, a high priest, hurried to tell the king. Then he went to Amos and told him he must leave the country, as he couldn't be safe there. Amos was not frightened, but answered humbly, "I was no prophet, or even a prophet's son. I was a simple shepherd. The Lord called me and commanded me, 'Go prophesy to my people Israel. Now, therefore, hear the word of the Lord.'"

Amos continued to point out the sins of the people and warn them of God's punishment to come. He knew he was speaking God's words, telling His laws, therefore he need not be afraid. What a magnificent figure he was, and what example he provides for today.

The Situation Now

There are problems today, too. Perhaps not as bad as in Amos' day, but still problems.

There are many poor people today, but fortunately a Welfare Program is set up to care for their needs. There are still laws within this program, however, that prevent very needy ones from receiving aid, while others not so needy are able to enjoy its benefits. Our "charity" needs reviewing.

Aim of the Topic

1. To know Amos better.
2. To point out his humility and his indignation.
3. To help youth become increasingly aware of the present problems.

Discuss Together

1. Name some social problems we face today.
2. What can we do to help?
3. Is it easy to be an Amos? Give reasons for your answer.
4. Was Amos' humility an important part of his character? Why or why not?
5. How did his indignation help or hinder his progress?
6. What problems in Amos' day are the same as ours today?
7. Can they be met in the same way? Why or why not?
8. What is "righteous indignation"? Is it good?
9. What does it cost to "be an Amos" in a day of social need?
10. What do you think Christ would think of our social order and practices today?

Race prejudice is ever with us. It is frequently a shock to Christian conscience when traveling in some parts of the United States to see buildings, stairways, wash rooms and drinking fountains labeled "Whites Only." Some have forgotten that we are all God's children. Segregation is a live and vital issue before the nation today.

Housing problems prevail everywhere. Most cities have beautiful residential sections, but they also have horrible, crime-infested slum sections where the houses are worse than slum quarters.

There are problems of labor relations constantly arising. Organized labor today is doing great disservice to its own noble cause, by greed and by lack of wisdom. Manipulation by unscrupulous leaders creates much dissension even among Union members. Both Capital and Labor must be fair and reasonable to each other, with the general public welfare constantly considered first.

What Should Be The Reaction?

If all people lived according to God's law there would be no wars, no crime; no one would go hungry, or be cold; none would be friendless, forsaken, or in trouble. But we have not reached that level of living.

The papers are filled with juvenile crimes of theft, malicious destruction, shootings, sex attacks, auto accidents, vandalism! If these same young people knew Christ and followed God's laws, they would not follow these evil ways. The church must strive to get into its fold these folk that need it so badly. Young people who are inclined to do wrong must be helped, not shunned. A vital evangelism is needed. In view of these needs, and the ever-increasing problems, the Church of God cannot sit at ease. To win the world for Christ would solve the problems;—to win a few for Him would help a great deal. That is our task.

A SEED THOUGHT

"I am a part of my social order, my culture. If that is wrong or unchristian, what is wrong with me?"

Our Aims

1. To make a study of a man of Bible background.
2. To see how a sensitive social conscience expresses itself.
3. To see how Amos' message applies to labor and race problems today.

For Discussion

1. Make a list of things in your town or city that you think God does not like. Discuss this list.
2. How were the wealthy of Israel living?
3. What was the condition of the poor?
4. Why were the people's religious observances not pleasing to God?
5. What great truth about God did Amos declare?
6. What has Amos to say to us today?
7. Memorize Amos 4:13.

Amos: Indignant Shepherd

No. 1 in a Series:
"Minor Prophets Who Became Heroes"

Amos 5:14; 6:1-6; 8:1-6



Intermediate (12-14 YEARS)

— OCTOBER 2 —

clad man and crying, "Who will take this one for seven years of bondage? One sold him a pair of shoes and he cannot pay. According to the law he seizes him. Who will have him?"

In the midst of all the uproar and confusion, no one noticed a quiet man in a goat-skin mantle who had wandered about in the gayly dressed throng since before the morning sacrifice. He lingered near the altar, watching the families that came once and again to present their sacrifices to the high priest. He noticed that a few came reverently and prayerfully, but that most people were in haste and eager to be through. He noticed that the priests smiled at the tricks of the dwarf even as they chanted the ritual of the sacrifice. This was all out of keeping with the occasion, as this visitor saw it.

Disturbed Amos Begins to Preach

Amos was disturbed all night by what he had seen and heard. The next day by the middle of the forenoon, however, the grove was filled and the scenes of the day before were repeated. Presently Amos stood beside the stall of a trader in wheat as a poor townsman approached and sought to buy a measure. The trader winked at his fellows and turned his back as he dipped the measure in the grain in order that the man might not see that he did not look on the face of the poor man as he looked at the tiny bit of wheat in the leather pouch he had bought. With mounting indignation Amos listened as the seller asked double the usual price for his wares.

And then, suddenly, he found himself standing on the wheat merchant's stall shouting to the people, "Hear, O Israel. Give ear, ye children of Jacob."

The crowd paused and, always eager for some new thing, listened.

"Because of the wickedness of Damascus, saith the Lord, I will not turn away the punishment thereof—"

Ah, here were real words. The people crowded up to listen.

"Because of the wickedness of the Philistines—"

"A holy prophet. Hear him!" said the wheat merchant, piously.

"Because of the wickedness of the children of Ammon—"

By this time the crowd was cheering Amos. "A great prophet, a holy man, indeed," they cried. "Hear how he curses our enemies."

For a moment Amos paused and looked at the upturned faces. Even Amaziah, the high priest, was listening.

"Hear this word that the Lord has spoken against you, O children of Israel. You only have I known of all the families of the earth;

therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities."

A tremendous hush fell upon the crowd. Voices began to murmur, but again Amos was speaking rapidly. He poured out all the evil and injustice which he had seen in the two days at Bethel. He spoke of the poor man sold into bondage for the price of a pair of shoes. He dwelt on the display of the rich, and the rags and starvation of the poor, and the merchants skimping their measures and charging a double price.

With eloquence of which he had never dreamed himself capable he condemned the priests who encouraged the negligence and folly of the people, the women who urged their husbands to bring them gold and jewels while they turned their backs upon the beggars, the elders of the people who accepted bribes and gave false judgments. And always through all ran the theme that Israel had been called by Jehovah to high and holy work and because she had failed she was far more guilty than other nations whom God had not so richly blessed.

Judgment Today

We who in our day have seen judgment come upon many nations who have violated the covenant of the God of righteousness can appreciate something of the depths of the insight of Amos. As the Day of the Lord came upon Israel when it was destroyed in 721 B. C., so the Day of the Lord, a day of blackness with no brightness in it (Amos 5:20), is being experienced by many in our day.

But do we want to hear of our sins individually and collectively? The people listened to Amos for awhile. Then they rose up and ran Amos out of the city, saying, "Go back to the hills and prophesy." They even got the priest and the king to order Amos not to preach again in Bethel! But Amos would not stop until he had finished what he believed God wanted him to say. He told the people that their easy, lazy, luxurious ways would make them soft, an easy prey to their enemies. Their treatment of the poor would cause strife within the land. Surely the sins of the people would bring only destruction and misery to all.

Listen to some of Amos's words as you read Amos 4:1, 2; 5:21-24; 8:4-8.

From The Book of Books

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| M., Sept. 26. | No Escape. | Amos 9:1-4. |
| T., Sept. 27. | An Ultimatum. | Amos 5:14, 15. |
| W., Sept. 28. | Famine of God's Word. | Amos 8:11-14. |
| T., Sept. 29. | God Will Restore. | Amos 9:11-15. |
| F., Sept. 30. | Amos, Called By God. | Amos 7:14, 15. |
| S., Oct. 1. | Prophecy of Desolation. | Amos 9:1-10. |
| Sun., Oct. 2. | Topic—Amos: Indignant Shepherd. | Amos 5:14; 6:1-6; 8:1-6. |

Comments by Raymond M. Veb

Meet Amos

In this meeting we want to get acquainted with Amos. He lived about 750 years before the time of Jesus. Although many prophets had prophesied before him, he is the earliest whose words are preserved for us in the books of the prophets. He was not a professional prophet making his living by prophesying, but rather a shepherd and dresser of the sycamore trees which bore none too palatable figs. He came from the village of Tekoa, a short distance south of Bethlehem and at the edge of the wilderness of Judah (see map). Life there was simple, hard, and without pretense, quite unlike that in the urban centers in Israel, where Amos was to prophesy.

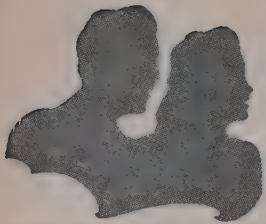
Perhaps Amos had heard about the conditions existing in Israel. Perhaps he had had an opportunity to go there, for, after all, it was not so far away. While he was with his flock he answered the call of the Lord, "Go, prophesy unto my people Israel."

It was the first day of the feast, and just at sunrise the thousands of people had come from their tents and booths wearing their best and had gathered in the grove where the great altar of Jehovah stood. There Amaziah, the high priest, offered up the morning sacrifices. The incense rose, the viols and psalteries played, and all the people chanted the prayers and responses.

Watching there in the early morning, you would have said how wonderful is the devotion of the people, how deep their piety. But look a bit closer. Even as they pray, many are thinking about how they may make more money. Here a merchant secretly counts the gold pieces in his girdle. Women everywhere are arranging their earrings and trying new ways of stacking the numerous bracelets on their arms.

No sooner is the last chant of the morning sacrifice said than the merchants are running to move their stalls right up to the altar. A dwarf begins to do tricks not ten feet from the high priest and to beg for copper coins. The seller of perfumes and spices comes with his urns and bottles and the women gather about him. "Oil to make your faces shine—incense for the hair!" he cries.

Even the slave trader was not slow to enter the sacred grove. He came, dragging a poorly



Hosea: Forgiving Husband

No. 2 in a Series:

"Minor Prophets Who Became Heroes"

Hosea 3; 6:1; 11:1-4

Senior-Young People (15-24 YEARS)

— OCTOBER 9 —

Comments by Earle W. Gates

Pattern For The Meeting

The leader of this meeting should make careful preparation for its success by these steps:

- Pray for God's blessing and help.
- Study the Bible selections given.
- Read the following material, then add his own thoughts, experiences, and other illustrations.
- Plan a brief Leader's Talk to make clear the purposes of the meeting.

We find ourselves midway in a fine study unit of topics. Causing us to delve more deeply than usual into the Old Testament, we are studying three of God's prophets who became heroes. Amos has passed our view, Micah is yet to come. Today we look at Hosea, known as one of the Minor Prophets. The leader should know something about Hosea. Read the book of Hosea, it only contains fourteen chapters, on about eight pages. He was a prophet of the Northern Kingdom; he speaks of its king as "our king." Hence his message was to the Northern Kingdom, with the occasional reference to Judah. He lived during the last 40 years of the Northern Kingdom, beginning his ministry under Jeroboam II. He was a younger contemporary of Amos, an older contemporary of Isaiah and Micah. As a child he may have known Jonah. Other prophets had been sent of God to cause the people of Israel to return to Jehovah, but they as a people had sunk deeper and deeper into the abominations of idolatry and sin. Finally God desired to use Hosea's example as well as his message to woo back God's people.

Have Bibles in the meeting and try to have a study made. The group can examine the passages involved and discuss their implications.

The chief emphasis should ultimately be on family relationships and upon forgiveness through love. Perhaps some plans could be made for a further counselling session on marriage and home. An invited guest counselor would be most helpful. There are also fine moving pictures and slides available. Strive for continuing interest in this field, and a helpful meeting today.

The Situation Then

The leading thought of the Book of Hosea is the apostasy of Israel. For centuries God had been trying to win back His chosen people. Some 200 years before Hosea's day Ten Tribes out of the Twelve had seceded from the kingdom of David, and had set up an independent

kingdom. They gave allegiance to the Golden Calf as their official national god. Earlier prophets had tried in vain to bring them back. God now called Hosea to the task, and He gave a magnificent example of forgiveness. He used the reasoning that the seceding Tribes giving themselves to other gods were like unto an unfaithful wife giving herself to a man other than her husband. But he was to forgive, and to welcome her back.

Hosea's Reaction

Hosea was commanded of God to take as a wife an unchaste woman. It is not clear that his wife Gomer herself was a lewd woman, but it seems likely that she was guilty of sin, that the parallel might be seen. Hosea is thus asked to marry and to love a woman who was unfaithful, as a symbol of God's love for wayward Israel. She was unfaithful and apparently unworthy of her husband's love, but he remained faithful and forgiving. He brought her back, and of the story has been said, "His sentences fall like the throbs of a broken heart."

The Situation Now

For us today the greater importance is not in the experiences of Hosea except that we see him as a person of great forgiveness and understanding, one whose message we deeply need. He should stand out in our thinking today as real and alive. He is not unlike many, many people in our world. His problem with Gomer his wife should be seen and evaluated. But mainly his ever-returning love and concern for her should be witnessed. From such a view young people today may better understand the problems of forgiveness, may better analyze the complexities of home life. This attitude of forgiveness is needed in every home today, not just in those where gross sin has taken place.

We find ourselves in an age where one out of every four marriages ends in divorce. This is a stupendous social problem in itself. It is needless to say that forgiveness has not been given free play in a majority of these marriages. There are many times this number of "broken homes." They are not broken legally by divorce, but they are hopelessly divided over scores of issues. To be "broken" by emotional stresses, by selfishness, by indifference, or by actual sin, is to present one of the greatest problems of our age. This is a many-sided problem, for it may be described as emotional, economic, domestic, biological, legal, as well as social. Children living in such an atmosphere lack their rightful sense of security and love. Even in homes where such serious breaches have not occurred there are tensions and misunderstandings, usually the result of selfishness. Consider the situation, for a mo-

Aim of the Topic

1. To know Hosea better.
2. To point out his forgiveness and his home life.
3. To help youth become more forgiving, and to build better homes.

Discuss Together

1. What have we learned about Hosea?
2. What lesson does God strive to teach through him?
3. Was Hosea's attitude toward his wife justified? Why?
4. Did Gomer deserve her husband's forgiveness?
5. If she didn't deserve it, why then should Hosea have granted it?
6. What great lesson do we learn from Hosea?
7. Why is it so hard for us to forgive?
8. Name several circumstances in home life where forgiveness is essential?
9. What must we remember and do in order to forgive another?
10. Why is forgiveness toward all a Christian duty?

ment, where one member of a household offends another and where resentment holds sway thereafter. If there is not a great degree of Christian understanding and a generous gift of the grace of God, there are the smoldering embers that later break out into serious trouble. The withholding of forgiveness is the door to tragedy.

What Should Be The Reaction?

The answer to this question is amazingly simple—but it is oh, so difficult to get it accomplished. The only sound reaction to injury or to trouble is forgiveness! Anything less breeds more trouble and deeper injury. In the homes where vile sin has taken its toll, only God-inspired forgiveness can save marriage. In homes where contentment is barred out by bickering, misunderstanding and resentment within, only understanding and forgiveness can wipe away the tears. In situations of anger and resentment, the same magic key will open the flood-gates of happiness again. Forgiveness is the basis of the family! Without it, no family can well exist. Even when we seem to have deep grievances, through no fault of our own, let us remember the example of Hosea. God has chosen him to remind us today that as Christ has forgiven us, so we also must forgive one another. Think of this in relation to parents, friends, teachers, church associates, and "enemies." Some may wish to continue the investigation further into the realm of prospective marriage and its problems. But in all areas of life, God's command is as clear as His example, "Forgive."

Daily Readings

- | | | | |
|------------|----|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| M., Oct. | 3. | Till Seven Times? | Matt. 18:21, 22 |
| T., Oct. | 4. | Condition For Forgiving. | Luke 6:37 |
| W., Oct. | 5. | Supreme Forgiveness. | Luke 23:34 |
| T., Oct. | 6. | Power to Forgive. | Matt. 9:6 |
| F., Oct. | 7. | The Prodigal Son. | Luke 15:11-32 |
| S., Oct. | 8. | Return Unto The Lord. | Hosea 14:1-3 |
| Sun., Oct. | 9. | Topic—Hosea: Forgiving Husband. | Hosea 3; 6:1; 11:1-4 |

A SEED THOUGHT

"A successful marriage is more dependent on what you are than whom you marry."

Our Aims

1. To meet in the Bible a man with a big heart.
2. To see that forgiveness is the basis of the family.
3. To face the problems of family relations today.

Questions

1. When, where and how did Hosea preach?
2. How did Hosea learn the truths about redeeming love?
3. What was his attitude toward sin, toward the sinner?
4. What is the relation of love to justice?
5. How can one stand by his convictions and still love the person with whom he disagrees?

Hosea: Forgiving Husband

No. 2 in a Series:
"Minor Prophets Who Became Heroes"

Hosea 3; 6:1; 11:1-4



Intermediate (12-14 YEARS)

— OCTOBER 9 —

Comments by Raymond M. Veb

Meet Hosea

Hosea married the wrong girl. But what young man when he marries his "true love" ever expects things to turn out wrong? Hosea made his mistake when he married a Canaanite girl who didn't have his ideals. A brainless butterfly—she ran away from her husband and family. Years of agony followed for Hosea.

Then one day Hosea was in the market place. He saw slaves being sold on the slave block. He looked up and saw Gomer, his beloved, the mother of his children. He should have hated her—but she was his Gomer. He loved her. Why should these slave-sellers ridicule her? He bought her back for 30 shekels.

And now she was in that inner room, behind the curtain, quiet, submissive, an old and broken thing, purchased on the public slave market by her own wronged husband.

Hosea Discovers A Great Truth

Hosea asked serious questions as he thought of Gomer. Why did God let such things happen to a man? Or did he? Then he answers to himself: Why, that must be the way God loves! He tries his best with men and nations. They spurn him, but he sees the best, their possible selves, and he never gives up loving and trying.

Hosea's mind seemed to make a new leap forward. Life's mistake was used of God to make a prophet of him. He would preach love, God's love.

To Hosea, God was as a wronged husband, Israel a faithless wife. Gomer had lied about Hosea; Israel maligned God. Gomer thought she could go home as a last resort; Israel might seek God after trying everything else. It was the old story of men and nations—money and armament, diplomacy and intrigue first; time enough to pray when everything else fails.

Hosea's Prediction

The Lord, said Hosea, had divorced his wife Israel. He would punish her for the days

when she had gone after Baal. He held the priests chiefly to blame. They fostered the corrupt practices to their own profit. "They feed on the sin of my people," said the Lord (Hosea 4:8). Israel would be exiled by her enemies. In view of her internal decay, her attempts to save herself by playing politics with the nations would be of no avail.

Our God—A God Of Love

Hosea put first things first—the knowledge of God. We are reminded of the first commandment quoted by Jesus: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God." Hosea's God was God of love. He was the husband and father of Israel. Read Hosea 11:1 and following, which begins, "When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt." The heart of the Lord broke when a sinful people forced him to pronounce on them a judgment of doom.

This kind of love was far superior to the lusts which popular religion ascribes to the gods. Hosea lets us see that the love of God is not something apart from His righteousness and from His demand for obedience and morality from those who worship Him. This thought is expressed in the vision of the new age in Hosea 2:19-20: "... I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness and justice ... and thou shalt know the Lord." The love and the law of God are related to one another.

A Warning For Today

Echoing through the caverns of time comes Hosea's voice to us, warning us today to return to God His rightful place in our hearts. We must leave our worship of science and psychology, our Baalism of this day, if we are to escape the same destruction which Israel reaped. We must realize that the discoveries of science and psychology are revelations of God's power and wonder—that they are not things separated from God when rightly understood and used. We must leave our worship of those pleasures and entertainments which corrupt the soul and make shallow the mind. We must realize anew that in God is our strength and that, without God, all the "bow-strength" of the atomic bomb and all the gold that we can shower upon our neighbors to make and strengthen our alliances around the world will come to nothing and will crumble in the testing.

The Greatest Thing in The World

Love has been described as "the greatest thing in the world." And indeed it is. If you haven't read recently I Corinthians 13, read it again. You'll see the truth of this statement.

We love God because He first loved us. And He expresses His love in that wonderful key-verse of the Bible, John 3:16.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

In the play *Green Pastures*, the "Lawd" and Hezdrel talk of the God of Hosea. The question is asked: "How did Hosea learn

of that mercy?" Then comes the answer: "Through sufferin'." Finally, the Voice says: "Oh, look at him! Oh, look, dey goin' to make him carry it up dat high hill! Dey goin' to nail him to it! Oh, dat's terrible burden for one man to carry!"

That's the wonder of Calvary—it reveals the love of God. God dies for us not because we are lovely and beautiful, but because we are full of sin. There is too much hate, suspicion, bickering, and fault-finding today, even among so-called Christians. We must learn how to love; we must learn how to get along better together.

A True Instance

The other day I heard a lovely young woman say, "I was in the church a long time before I learned the meaning of love. I was hateful, catty, unkind to my teachers and friends. Then one day the real meaning of love dawned upon me. And life has been—oh, so glorious since. I now try to treat other people with thoughtfulness, graciousness, kindness."

Love Wins

Toyohiko Kagawa put it well when he said: "Love alone can subdue the world. All those men who dreamed of world empire have failed: the first Emperor of China, Alexander the Great, Hannibal, Julius Caesar, Napoleon Bonaparte, the Kaiser—all have failed and vanished like a dream. Conquest by the sword is but for the moment; it has no validity whatever."

"Love introduces God to me. Love is my sanctuary—in factory, field, or city street; in bedroom, office, kitchen, or sick room. I have my sanctuary everywhere I go in the universe. Where love is, there God is."

Discuss our problem as Intermediates of making real Christian love in the home among our brothers and sisters, and at school among our classmates. Do we honestly express Christian concern and love right among the fellow members of our Christian Endeavor society? Love begins with the person right next to us.

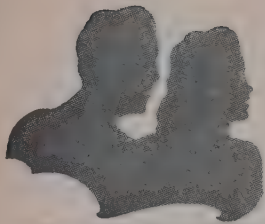
An Outline

If you care for an outline in reading the book, the following synopsis might be helpful.

- I. The Title
- II. The First Division, Chapter 1-3
 1. Israel's unfaithfulness through Baal, 1.
 - The calf's image, 2:2-5 (comp. 8:6).
 2. Israel's perplexities, 2:6-13.
 3. Israel's discipline in the wilderness, 3.
- III. The Second Division, Chapter 4-14
 1. Moral decay, 4-7:7.
 2. Political decay, 7:8-10.
 3. Consideration of God, 11:1-12.
 4. Final argument, 11:12-13.
 5. Call to repentance, 14.

Bible Messages

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| M., Oct. 3. | "How Shall I Forgive?" | Matt. 18:21, 22. |
| T., Oct. 4. | Israel's Ingratitude. | Hosea 11:1-4. |
| W., Oct. 5. | God's Forgiving Grace. | Hosea 14:1-5. |
| T., Oct. 6. | Supreme Forgiveness. | Luke 22:34. |
| F., Oct. 7. | Judgement Against The People. | Hosea 5:1-7. |
| S., Oct. 8. | Power To Forgive. | Matt. 9:6. |
| Sun., Oct. 9. | Topic—Hosea: Forgiving Husband. | Hosea 3; 6:1; 11:1-4. |



Micah: Champion of Peace

No. 3 in a Series:
"Minor Prophets Who Became Heroes"
Micah 4:1-5; 6:6-8

Senior-Young People (15-24 YEARS)

— OCTOBER 16 —

Comments by Earle W. Gates

Pattern For The Meeting

The leader of this meeting should make careful preparation for its success by these steps:

- Pray for God's blessing and help.
- Study the Bible selections given.
- Read the following material, then add his own thoughts, experiences, and other illustrations.
- Plan a brief Leader's Talk to make clear the purposes of the meeting.

Today concludes our study of three minor prophets who became heroes. *Amos: Indignant Shepherd* and *Hosea: Forgiving Husband* have been studied in the past two weeks. Today we shall take time to think about *Micah: Champion of Peace*.

It is difficult to think of peace during war and troublesome times, but Micah was able to do it. Such idealism and his faith in God made him a hero.

Micah and Amos are similar in many ways. Both were of great faith and courage. Amos foretold a future time when the people of Israel should be safe and happy. Micah envisioned the coming of the Saviour, even though he lived more than seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus.

The Situation Then

Judah didn't become powerful and wealthy quite as soon as Israel. When Micah began to preach as a prophet of God, the people of Judah were just beginning to be prosperous and wealthy. People from all over the world came to see the wonderful temple Solomon had built and to see the luxurious homes and palaces. Just as in Amos' day, the rich became richer and the poor became poorer. Micah lived to see Amos' dreadful prophesy of destruction come true. Assyrian soldiers made war against Israel, destroyed the cities, and carried the people away to be slaves. The people of Israel never came back to their land. Micah foresaw that punishment would come to Judah, also.

Micah's Reaction

Micah, as Amos, was also a poor shepherd, never dreaming that he would some day be a

prophet of God. He lived the hard, simple life of a shepherd in a lonely section of Judah. When he saw the sinful way the people of Judah were living he felt much the same as Amos did. An urgency to help arose within him.

Micah warned the people of Judah, "Unless you repent of your sins and change your ways, a dreadful punishment will come to you also, Jerusalem will be destroyed, and you too will be carried off as slaves to the land of Babylon." He gave a word of comfort along with his warning, for he told them that some day they would return from Babylon and rebuild Jerusalem.

Micah not only foretold the destruction of these people, but he foretold the coming of the Saviour to the people of Judah. He even foretold the very place where Jesus would be born more than seven hundred years in advance of His coming, in "Bethlehem of Judea."

Even though Micah was living and preaching in days of sin, trouble, and war, he was able to see through the dark clouds to better days, days of peace when the Saviour would come. He realized that when the Saviour came it would not bring a temporal earthly power for the Jewish people, but a spiritual glory. The glory would be in becoming the nation from whom the Saviour of the world would come. Theirs was to be a precious spiritual heritage, but they failed to see it or to acknowledge it. How often the better way is concealed by the lesser!

The Situation Now

As we think of Micah, champion of peace, we realize what uncertain times we live in. We are neither in "hot war" nor at peace. The immediate future of young people is discouragingly uncertain. Young men have to face the prospects of a draft-call, military service, and possible war-time training. Plans for establishing a home are often interrupted by these calls, or their threat. Further education for their life work is prevented or postponed. Young women find their newly established homes broken as the men go off for training. Children are brought up without their fathers for several years, or perhaps are even too long postponed. It becomes more common to find women working out of the home than in the home. All of these circumstances add to the turmoil and confusion of an already bewildering age. Truly "the times are out of joint," as Shakespeare's character long ago bemoaned. While we are deeply grateful to our God that we are not engaged in total war, yet the threat of it is as a sword over the heads of the entire world. It greatly affects our economy, our educational processes, our scientific advance, our home and marriage relationships and the

Aim of the Topic

1. To learn more about Micah.
2. To find how he was a champion of peace.
3. To apply Micah's attitude today.

Discuss Together

1. What have you learned about Micah?
2. How was Micah's day like ours today?
3. What was his source of strength, and how did he apply it?
4. What did Micah prophesy about the Saviour?
5. What does it cost to be a Micah in a troubled age?
6. In our day, what are the greatest problems?
7. How does the threat of war affect you?
8. What definite things can we do to help toward peace?
9. Is world peace possible? Why or why not?
10. What is the greatest hope for our day, and how should we use it?

pattern of our law-observance. Other areas that are affected by this uncertainty can easily be added. Both "wars and rumors of wars" are always disastrous and for the present generation, the "rumors" create the chaos!

Reaction

In view of the danger-charged nature of the days in which we live, one thing is obvious: It represents the only thing of which we are sure. The obvious thing is that we need the guiding hand of God and that our faith in His way must be increasingly strong. Of only one thing are we sure:—God cares for His own, and that in Him we find perfect peace both for time and for eternity. These are hard days for Christians, but they are perilous, hopeless days for any who are not Christians. If ever it has been true, today we must realize that "faith is the victory that overcometh the world." (1 John 5:4.) May God help the one without faith today!

As people who are recipients of great and wonderful power today, and as nations of freedom, we must do "the things that make for peace." Let us strive to apply the healing balm of brotherhood, justice, concern for the world's hungry ones, and patience in "international incidents." May our power make us understanding and tolerant, charitable and forgiving, conciliatory though firm. We can well afford to be patient and long-suffering; we may save the world itself by these Christian virtues!

As Micah taught God's way to a world of sin and strife, He pointed to the Christ as the Way. Today we can do no less—and no more. The Christ of God is the only hope for the world today. The only way out is up. Until we can say "I know *Whom* I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day" (II Timothy 1:12), we shall have no peace or security. Let us find our rest in Him, and by pointing others to Christ bring them into the safe fold also. Youth today must learn that "Jesus Is The Friend You Need."

A SEED THOUGHT

"When the world is on fire,
we need the 'living waters' of
the Christian Gospel."

Scripture Passages

- M., Oct. 10. Peace Like A River. Isaiah 48:18.
- T., Oct. 11. Jesus Gives Peace. John 14:27.
- W., Oct. 12. Peace In Our Hearts. Col. 3:15.
- T., Oct. 13. Look Unto The Lord. Micah 7:7.
- F., Oct. 14. The Perfect Man. Psalm 37:37.
- S., Oct. 15. A Benediction. II Thess. 3:16.
- Sun., Oct. 16. Topic—Micah: Champion of Peace. Micah 4:1-5; 6:6-8.

Our Aims

1. To meet a Bible hero who believed world peace possible.
2. To discover Micah's ideals.
3. To face the situation today's world presents.

Questions

1. How did Micah discover the mercy of God? How do we discover it?
2. What place has mercy in society? How do you decide when a situation demands mercy or strict justice?
3. Can mercy set aside justice or should it temper justice?
4. How does Jesus reveal the mercy of God?
5. After we become Christians, in what ways do we continue to receive the mercy of God?

Comments by Raymond M. Veb

Meet Micah

Micah "stood alone" in his defense of the poor peasant of the farms. He lived in a beautiful section of farm country, low hills covered with fertile plantations that were owned by great lords and farmed by poor peasants. He saw the poverty and misery of the poor workers and compared it to the ease and luxury of their overlords. He saw the wrongness of this situation and spoke in words strong and poetic. Read them in Micah 2:1-3. This sort of thing goes on, Micah predicted, the people will rise up against their lords and there will be war and destruction.

But Micah saw beyond the possible wars to a happier time of peace. He "stood alone" again as he urged people to turn their swords into plowshares, to live in peace and friendliness, every man content and happy in his own house and his own little farm. These too are very beautiful lines. Read them aloud, slowly and carefully, in Micah 4:1-5.

Micah spoke for farm folk. He was a country preacher. As you read the seven chapters of his book (we have only fragments of Micah's writings) you will note country phrases which recur again and again in the expressions he uses. For example: "I will make Samaria a heap in the open country, a place for planting vineyards"; "they shall beat their words into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks." Through all generations the country has made an important contribution to the city. Nurtured near the soil, trained in the primitive virtues, men of God from the country have brought a purifying influence to the city.

The Situation Micah Faced

The years before Micah might be compared to the world of our day before 1914. They were years of peace and of growing prosperity for both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms. Optimistic statesmen of that era may well have envisioned a warless and prosperous world. But the years of Micah were years of disillusionment, years when the very foundations of ordered existence seemed to be giving way. They might be compared to our own world-shaking times. God had unloosed Assyria, the scourge of the nations.

Micah: Advocate of Peace

No. 3 in a Series:

"Minor Prophets Who Became Heroes"

Micah 4:1-5; 6:6-8

(World Order Sunday)



Intermediate (12-14 YEARS)

— OCTOBER 16 —

During the prophecy of Micah, the Northern Kingdom had fallen. Samaria, the crown of glory, has fallen to the armies of Sargon II. Tiny Judah was next in the conqueror's path. According to Micah's great contemporary, Judah's country was desolate, her cities were burned by fire, her land was devoured by foreigners. Isaiah 1:7.

The world-shaking events, threatening the security of Judah, produced in her a new religious consciousness. Judah recognized God's claim upon her. She realized that she had sinned in turning away from her Redeemer.

Israel was frightened to the point of response to God. But she would respond in her own way. She would increase her ceremonies, enrich her worship. She would add to her liturgy, and perhaps her God would be appeased. Her response was essentially a heathen response. Her God she would not recognize as the God of history who entered into and qualified the everyday life of the people. She would relegate Him to the temple, to the new moon and the Sabbath, and she would go about life as usual.

This did not silence Micah. The God of the Hebrews did not want to be placated. He wanted a response to His love, a response to His redemptive activity. He had loved Israel first. He sought Israel's love in return.

The Message of Micah

As the God of the Hebrews was a God of acts, so He demanded acts of His people. He demanded not sentiment, but deeds. The Israelite must respond to God's deeds of love by deeds of justice to his neighbor.

"To love mercy." But God sought from His people more than a mere outward response. He sought the response of the heart. The deeds of justice are difficult to achieve. To do justly you must overcome the selfishness of the human heart. Deeds of justice can be accomplished only when the inner heart is set upon mercy. To balance evil deed with evil deed is to end up with the death of us all and with justice to none. We can approximate justice only when our hearts overshoot justice in love of mercy.

"To walk humbly with thy God." God sought in His people more than the response of deed and love to the neighbor. He sought in His people the response of consistent, daily fellowship with Himself. This is a response which can only be found in the right estimate of our own weakness; humility. This response of fellowship with God provides the drive for a love of mercy and for deeds of justice to the neighbor.

Our Answer Today

The question that confronts us is one that confronted Micah. Is there any hope? Are we doomed? The answer is, No. God sent Jesus into the world to provide a way of redemption for man. Jesus died on the cross for man's sins. We cannot understand the mystery of it, but Jesus did something for us there that we cannot do for ourselves. Paul put it like this: "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). At Calvary we see the highest expression of the mercy of God. Seeing that strange man upon the cross, we accept Him as Saviour and Lord and thus receive the mercy of God.

God Of History And Today

The God of the prophet Micah was not a God of philosophy or speculation, as God so often is with us. We use reason to prove His existence. We try to set forth in a logical way His attributes. We speculate concerning His nature. But the God of the Hebrews was a God of great acts. He was a God who entered into history, into the very life of Israel. He does so in the life of peoples and nations today.

Have we Americans lost the sense of mercy due to the power which we possess as a nation today?

Are there people right in our church who need to have an expression of mercy and love from us? How can we begin to make this quality of God real just where we are?

Daily Scripture Readings

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| M., Oct. 10. | Peace Like A River. | Isaiah 48:18 |
| T., Oct. 11. | The Peace That Jesus Gives. | John 14:27. |
| W., Oct. 12. | Peace In Our Hearts. | Col. 3:15. |
| T., Oct. 13. | Look Unto The Lord. | Micah 7:7. |
| F., Oct. 14. | The Perfect Man. | Psalms 37:37. |
| S., Oct. 15. | A Benediction. | 1 Thess. 3:16. |
| Sun., Oct. 16. | Topic—Micah: Advocate of Peace. | Micah 4:1-5; 6:6-8. |
| | | (World Order Sunday) |



Our Revolutionary World

No.1 in a Series: "The Christian Mission in a Revolutionary World"

Psalm 2: Mark 16:14-18

Senior-Young People (15-24 YEARS)

— OCTOBER 23 —

Comments by Earle W. Gates

Pattern For The Meeting

The leader of this meeting should make careful preparation for its success by these steps:

Pray for God's blessing and help.

Study the Bible selections given.

Read the following material, then add his own thoughts, experiences, and other illustrations.

Plan a brief Leader's Talk to make clear the purpose of the meeting.

After a period of Bible study just past, we now look to our Missionary responsibility. The topic today is the opening one of a series using the very impressive title *The Christian Mission In A Revolutionary World*. Today's *Our Revolutionary World*, is designed to be a description of the changing world we live in and of the treatment required for its total health. The title of this series is the theme of the Joint Commission on Missionary Education of the National Council of Churches for 1955-56. It emphasizes overseas activity in Christian service. Much additional help can be obtained from denominational publishing houses, or from the National Council of Churches, New York City. This theme will be read, studied, discussed and applied in countless multitudes of churches of all denominations, youth groups, men's and women's organizations, etc. It is one that should have the attention of Christian youth in this day, for they are both the products and the hope of this bewildering age.

The leaders of this topic and of next week's should get together on preparation. Special events can be planned to make the most of these two days. Today's leader should become informed on the status of world affairs, realizing the extent of the change in the world today. He should introduce missionary activity as the solution to the problems. In the Leader's Talk, try to bring out the fullest answer to the ceaseless question, "Why Missions?" Pave the way for next week's topic which will bring greater detail of the part Christianity can play in the world today.

Perhaps special speakers can be secured. Missionary moving pictures or slides would be helpful. Resource leaders, especially the pastor, should be invited. Keep the discussion sensible, constructive and informative. Keep it moving.

A SEED THOUGHT

"A changeless Christ still rules over a changing world."

Is Our World Revolutionary?

This is a question that might be the center of great controversy. Some feel that it is, others do not so acknowledge it. Let's see what Webster says about the meaning of the word. Revolution is defined as "a total or radical change, as a revolution in thought" and "a fundamental change in organization or government." Revolutionary is defined, "pertaining to, or characterized by, or of the nature of, a revolution, especially in government." Hence to be revolutionary is to be in a state of change or turn-over, in human relations. Government, social organization, domestic relations, moral standards, education, scientific advance, religious practices, all these are in a state of change, and flux. It probably can safely be said that our world is in a revolutionary state, if by that we mean it is changing. The last half of the century has seen more radical changes than perhaps all the recorded experience of man put together. Even the last decade has brought vast changes, of world-changing proportions.

A fruitful question for discussion in any group today is "What is going on in the world today that is of a revolutionary nature?"

Change Or Improvement?

Change for the sake of change itself is useless; indeed it is often disastrous. Only when change brings improvement is it good. Perhaps only when it brings a great improvement is it justified wholly. Many tests must be put to change in order to determine its value. What does it sacrifice? What inconvenience or loss is sustained? What positive good is achieved? Who will bring the improvement to pass? What will be the final result? The long-time view must always be taken. Especially in the field of human relations must we remember that every action has an equal and proportionate reaction. Upon whom would this fall? It will be well to consider the areas of change listed under the fore-going section in the light of these tests. Always we should ask, "Is this change for better or for worse?" And as Christians, we must ask if it is in accordance with the Word and Will of God.

The Christian Mission

This topic has been created in order that we might begin to interpret the Christian Mission in our age. In the light of the above it is evident that there is such a mission. Never has the world more needed the steady hand of the One Who said, "Not by power nor by might, but by My Spirit." Verily we need the changeless spirit of the Redeemer to balance a constantly changing world.

Aim of the Topic

1. To re-examine our changing world
2. To try to discover "Why Missions Today?"

For Discussion

1. How can we say ours is a revolutionary world?
2. Is change good or bad? Give reasons for your answers.
3. What is going on in the world today that is revolutionary?
4. How have missions helped change the world thus far?
5. What do we personally owe missions?
6. Who brought the Gospel to us?
7. What improvements can you see in world affairs if Christ were the Lord of all? In national affairs?
8. What is evangelism?
9. How can we share in a program of evangelism?
10. What hope does Christianity offer in a changing world?

In the changing international field it has been suggested that the Missionary enterprise is the answer to the problem. There are some people of dim perception and shortsighted complacency who ask, "Why Missions?" There are also too many stupid ones who say "I don't believe in Missions. We have enough to do right here in this country. Granted! This is true, but in the spreading of the Christian Gospel, there are no national boundaries. Missions are neither here nor there; they must be everywhere. In a world fast hurtling itself toward destruction we cannot afford to quibble over likes or dislikes of how to do the Master's Work. It is either Christ or Chaos, for both the nation and the world!"

In the past weeks we have been looking backward, at some of the great heroes of the past. Today and next week let us look forward to the heroic needs of the future. As we meet the challenges of today, we pave the way for meeting these needs, many yet unknown. If the world be revolutionary or changing, it will take great characters to guide the future destiny. A new world directed by new knaves will surely be a wicked world. Rather we need "men to match the mountains" in the task ahead. A faithful advance of the Missionary challenge of the day, and by a diligent, sane evangelist at home, can we begin to interpret the Christian message to the changing world. Change with Christ will be a blessing; change without Him will be oblivion.

Daily Bible Readings

- M., Oct. 17. The Transfiguration of Christ. Mark 17:1-13.
T., Oct. 18. The Coming of The Kingdom. Isaiah 2:1-4.
W., Oct. 19. Of Things To Come. Psalm 72:1-7.
T., Oct. 20. God's Requirement. Micah 6:8.
F., Oct. 21. Faith For A Crisis. Mark 5:25-34.
S., Oct. 22. Thy Will Be Done. Matt. 26:38-46.
Sun., Oct. 23. Topic—Our Revolutionary World. Psalm 2; Mark 16:14-18.

Our Aim

1. To note the changes taking place in our world.
2. To see what the role of missions is today.
3. To share in the missionary education study and work of the churches.

Comments by Raymond M. Veb

Foreword

"Revolutionary World" and "Indian Americans" will become familiar phrases in churches throughout the United States and Canada during 1955-56. These are the mission study themes this year. Books, maps, plays, films, filmstrips for adults, young people, and children on these themes have been planned. The representatives of these denominations are being published by the Joint Commission on Missionary Education of the National Council of Churches under the imprint Friendship Press. As long-suppressed peoples awake, the churches ask: What is the churches' part?

In these two weeks we study the foreign missions theme.

The Junior High book is "World Upside Down," edited by Margaret Greene. This collection of seven stories by seven well known authors introduces teen-agers facing real situations in Japan, India, the Near East, and Africa, China, Thailand, and Korea. Each story tells about some need and some phase of the missionary work of the church. This book helps junior highs see how other young people live and leads them to grow in appreciation for and desire to serve in the worldwide fellowship of the church. Cloth \$2.00; Paper \$1.25. The guide on how to use "World Upside Down," by Margaret Greene, paper 50c. Order from your denominational book store.

Another helpful resource is "The Church We Cannot See" by Nelle Morton. It contains true stories showing how people in various parts of the world form the "invisible" church of fellowship and sharing. Cloth \$2.00; Paper \$1.25.

There are some splendid audio-visual aids for these studies. Ask the leader of your women's missionary organization for suggestions which have been sent to her.

Revolution And Its Consequences

Revolution was the technique by which one people (the American colonists) sought to dissolve the political bands which . . . connected them with another." A scholarly young Virginia planter, Thomas Jefferson, wrote the Declaration of Independence on behalf of the Committee of Five. It was committed to the Continental Congress and after amendment finally adopted on the evening of July 4, 1776.

When the Declaration of Independence left the status of a revolution and became a fact, made such an overwhelming impression that the day of its passage has become the national holiday for the celebration of American independence, not the proper date which was July 2.

In Mexico the inscription over a government building proclaims: "To the Revolution, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." Many question whether or not the price of violent revolution has not been too high. Many have suffered bitterly during the social and political turmoil that follows revolutions.

Discuss other world events which have changed the course of history.

Our Revolutionary World

No. 1 in a Series:
"The Christian Mission in a
Revolutionary World"

Psalms 2: Mark 16:14-18



Intermediate (12-14 YEARS)

— OCTOBER 23 —

Christianity Believes In Freedom

The Old Testament has many accounts of kings who had to respect the rights of common people, for example, David and Uriah, Ahab and Naboth. The New Testament emphasis upon the duty of independent moral judgment places the responsibility squarely upon the individual in making decisions as to right and wrong. When God places this requirement upon man, He elevates him to a high order, for the making of decisions is the basis of dignity and honor.

Freedom of choice is a basic concept of democracy and Protestant Christianity. Without freedom to make choices, there is only tyranny, as Jefferson insisted, "Our maxim of that day (July 4, 1776) was 'where annual election ends, tyranny begins.'" And as Jefferson again claimed, "God in heaven will not slumber without end on the iniquities of tyrants."

Does democracy depend upon Christianity for its preservation? Why? Does Christianity depend upon democracy? Why?

Flashes From Around The World

Okinawa:

In Okinawa a small but dynamic Christian movement is trying valiantly to meet the overwhelming difficulties confronted in the postwar era. The United Church of Christ has 25 organized congregations and 20 other preaching places where church schools are conducted. A total of 5,000 are enrolled in these schools. It is easy to get children to attend Sunday school in these islands, but there are few trained leaders, either clerical or lay. Although graded lessons in the Japanese language can be used, there has been little financial ability to obtain them from Tokyo. A small beginning was made last year in preparing materials by mimeograph, but even this came to a tragic end for lack of funds.

China:

Having dedicated their lives to Christ, a group of Chinese students decided they should join the church. Unsure as to which one, they prayed, "O God, lead us into thy Church." But their problem remained unsolved. They were still unable to determine which of the many denominations approximated most closely Christ's Church. So they called in the local ministers of these various groups to lecture on their respective faiths. Instead of providing a solution, this only added to the problem. One student, finding some truth in each group but the whole truth in none, decided he would join them all. A second, after drawing the same conclusion, joined none. Rather than bear witness to Christendom's "confusion of tongues," he decided to become a "Christian-at-large."

How can we help solve this problem?

India:

Village streets in India are often dirty because everyone thinks of the streets as com-

mon property and not something for which he is responsible. Therefore, a person keeping his own courtyard very clean might, at the same time, not bother at all about the appearance of the street in front of his house.

A missionary not more than 22 years old, with pupils of his school, came to live in an old barn in a certain village. The people wondered how they could take care of themselves. But soon they had fixed up their place until it was the cleanest in the village. What startled the villagers most, however, was the fact that every day they also cleaned the street around their home. It wasn't long until others were doing the same thing so that, through cooperative action, the village became a much more healthy place to live and the boys could go on to teach the people a great many things about living together.

You see, leaders are not people who just tell others what they should do. They must do it themselves, first.

Africa:

Mohammedans in certain sections of Africa are protesting the activities of Christian missionaries. They are rioting and blaming Christians for upsetting the peace. Some innocent missionaries have been thrown in jail. Shall our missionaries cease work in these areas, or continue? Read about this in missions journals.

A Closing Worship Service

Hymn: "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life."

Story:

An American woman once heard of the suffering in Africa and went and sold a diamond ring that had lain in a vault for many years, giving the money for the relief of some of that suffering. This was seeing a need and meeting it. This was Christian leadership for Africa beginning in America. And each one of us may have some hidden quality that can be turned into the service of our fellow men.

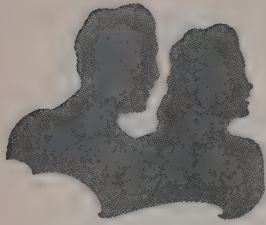
Prayer Hymn: "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee." Benediction.

A Project

Ask the mission leaders in your congregation what you can do to help meet just one of the world's needs for Christ, in some mission station of your church.

Bible References

- M., Oct. 17. The Transfiguration of Christ. Mark 17:1-13.
- T., Oct. 18. The Coming of The Kingdom. Isaiah 2:1-4.
- W., Oct. 19. Of Things To Come. Psalm 72:2-7.
- T., Oct. 20. God's Requirement. Micah 6:8.
- F., Oct. 21. Faith For A Crisis. Mark 5:25-34.
- S., Oct. 22. Thy Will Be Done. Matt. 26:38-46.
- Sun., Oct. 23. Topic—Our Revolutionary World. Psalm 2; Mark 16:14-18.



Christianity Brings New Hope

No. 2 in a Series:
"The Christian Mission in a
Revolutionary World"

Romans 1:14-17; II Corinthians 5:17-21; Isaiah 56:6-8

Senior-Young People (15-24 YEARS)

— OCTOBER 30 —

Comments by Earle W. Gates

Pattern For The Meeting

The leader of this meeting should make careful preparation for its success by these steps:
Pray for God's blessing and help.
Study the Bible selections given.
Read the following material, then add his own thoughts, experiences, and other illustrations.
Plan a brief Leader's Talk to make clear the purpose of the meeting.

We conclude the unit of topics entitled *The Christian Mission In A Revolutionary World* today with the optimistic tone of the new topic *Christianity Brings New Hope*. Since last week we perhaps have been thinking about our changing world, following our discussion of it. The leader may wish to recall to the group's thinking that change is not necessarily good and that great harm can come from change not in accordance with the will of God. Today there is great promise in the topic offered. In Christianity there truly is great new hope for the world. Let the leader of this topic proclaim this clearly in the meeting. The leader's talk should be prepared around this theme. In each meeting the leader should take five minutes or more to present the topic, giving the main phases of it. This will tend to stimulate the group's thinking and will prepare the way for a live discussion. Show briefly the changing state of the world. Then emphasize how Christ is the hope of the entire world, as well as being the Redeemer of each individual.

Try to bring out the purpose and mission of the Christian faith. Bring out also the importance of missionary activity and evangelism as ways of introducing the problems of mankind to the One Who can solve them. Helpful material can be obtained from your denominational publishing house.

The success of this meeting may be found in what the group decides to do about meeting

For Daily Meditation

- M., Oct. 24. God's Love Toward Us. John 3:16, 17.
T., Oct. 25. What Shall We Do? Acts 2:37, 38.
W., Oct. 26. Rugged Determination. Romans 8:37-39.
T., Oct. 27. Death and Eternal Life. Romans 7:23.
F., Oct. 28. The Work of Grace. Eph. 3:5-8.
S., Oct. 29. The Inner Witness. I John 5:10, 11.
Sun., Oct. 30. Topic—Christianity Brings New Hope. Romans 1:14-17; II Cor. 5:17-21; Isaiah 56:6-8.

the problems of our day. For some of your society this day may open doors for a whole new way of life.

Is Our World Revolutionary?

Last week we faced this question, and discussed it at length. Doubtless there was an affirmative conclusion reached. In view of the countless changes constantly taking place it is evident that "revolution" to some degree is in progress. Should any decide otherwise, then it must be clear that the Gospel must be preached even more to meet the call of the age for greater things. Assuming, however, that we are living in a day of revolution, in "a grand and awful age," as the hymn writer has described it, then the urgency of our Christian responsibilities must stir us indeed. We must be up and doing!

Change And Improvement

Change for change's sake is meaningless. Improvement must be found in proportion to the change if it be justified. This we have established already. Here then is where the Christian task begins. Since we are a part of the change and since we are a part of Christ, we must relate the two. It becomes an eternal moral obligation that we cast all the weight of our influence as Christians into the changing processes. If there is to be change — and it is inevitable — let there also be improvement. It must begin with the followers of Christ, for He is the only way to such advance.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the hope of the world today, the only hope. It is the mission of the Church, indeed of every Christian, to see that the people of the world hear the message of His redeeming love. With so many other forces striving to win the minds, and influence the lives, of the earth's 2,000,000,000 souls, it is imperative for Christians to be on the alert. We need today as never before a new "sense of mission." If the world is to be saved from destruction Christians are the ones who know the way out. No one else will tell the Blessed Story; only the called ones of God are so ordained. We who are God's children by faith have been sent forth "to bring fruit," to show ourselves "doers of the Word and not hearers only." (James 1:22.) The Great Commission was, and is, for every single Christian in the world. We are all to be witnesses for our Lord. We are all charged to so live and so love, to so speak and so pray that men may know we are His disciples. Seeing Him in us, the lost ones of the world may also be redeemed.

Aim of the Topic

1. To re-examine our changing world
2. To learn how Christ's Way can help our world.

For Discussion

1. How is our world changing?
2. Would you call it revolutionary?
3. What is revolution?
4. How is Christ "revolutionary"?
5. What are the greatest needs of the world today? Of our country? Of our community?
6. How could Christ help in the needs?
7. To whom does the "Great Commission" apply?
8. Quote the Great Commission, read it from the Bible. Discuss meaning to YOU.
9. Why is the Christian way the right way?
10. What "new hope" does Christianity offer man or nation?

If then there is to be constant change the world we have inherited, let there also be constant improvement where the sons of God are found. Christ is the only Hope. He is to us today, "Ye are witnesses—"

The Christian Mission

The world's peoples are in dire need to-day. There is hunger and want, there is slavery and oppression, there is the denial of basic human rights, while atheistic tyranny strives for mastery. There is, even in better regulated countries, crime and violence, indifference to social responsibility, domestic instability, and world-wide religious apathy. All the world, including our own comfortable little circle, needs a great lift. There is but one power able to do this. One who raises and lowers the tides of the sea, Who directs the planets, the seasons, the crops, He is able to control the affairs of the world. But only man refuses to heed His voice. Therein lies the Christian mission today. The world must be called back to God; the world's peoples need His redeeming grace. Only Christians can speak or interpret that grace to the sons of men. The Christian faith is the answer to the world's needs. In this faith is the "new hope" of all people. Jesus said, "I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me." (John 12:32.) We are to lift Him up before the eyes of the world. There is no other way to save the world or to discharge our divine obligation.

A revolutionary world needs a revolutionary Lord. None can so change all things as Christ, the Son. Let's give Him the chance. Truly "Christianity Brings New Hope,"—but Christ must "bring" the Christianity. "—and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8.)

A SEED THOUGHT

"Is Jesus being lifted
covered in this changing world"

Our Aim

1. To see that Christ is the hope of the world.
2. To discover how we can help fulfill the church's task.
3. To talk about the ways in which the Christian faith is related to the hope of the world's peoples.

Comments by Raymond M. Veb

Christ Is Our Hope

When churchmen of the world met in Evanston, Ill., in 1954 for the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches, a message was adopted:

This troubled world, disfigured and diseased as it is, is still God's world. He rules and overrules its tangled history. In praying, we will be done on earth as it is in heaven, we commit ourselves to seek earthly justice, peace and peace for all men. Here as everywhere Christ is our hope. Our confidence is not in our own reason or strength, but the power that comes from God. Impelled by this faith, all our actions will be but humble, grateful, and obedient acknowledgment that He has redeemed the world. The fruit of our efforts rests in His hands. We therefore live and work as those who know that God reigns, undaunted by all the arrogant pretensions of evil, ready to face situations that seem hopeless and yet to act of them as men whose hope is indestructible.

Christ Is Our Lord

Professor E. Schlunk of Germany told the Evanston Assembly the first afternoon:

"Christ is our hope as the *Risen Lord*. God raised from the dead Him who was crucified. In this act, God declared Himself for Jesus Christ; 'This man alone died without sin. He is my Son.' God delivered Him from the bonds of death and set Him down in a new life which is not bound by the limitations of this world. He is the new man. God made Jesus Christ the victor over all His enemies, has lifted Him up and has 'given' to Him all power in heaven and earth." (Matt. 26:18.)

"Christ is the Lord of the world, but Christ is not kept this victory for Himself. As He died for the world, so He rose again for the world. He conquered the powers of sin and death that those who believe in Him might become victors too. He was the first to open the way to life that many might have with Him in this life. The Risen Lord had just escaped from the bonds of death when He returned to His own, to those who had forsaken and even betrayed Him, and heaped to them, and greeted them with peace be with you.' Let us then place our hope in one who was crucified—in one who

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— OCTOBER 30 —

rose again. He is our victorious brother who will come again to judge the world."

Service Brings New Hope

In the New Testament we read that the church cared for the widows and orphans and the sick. The church has been doing this ever since. The church has built more hospitals, more orphanages, more homes for the aged than any other agency in all human history.

The church continues to serve those in need today. Through contributions to missions and world service, every Christian may have a part in carrying the Christian message to "all the world." People of every race and nationality are learning the love of God as revealed in Jesus because of the work of missionaries who are supported by churches in this country. Your personal pledge to the church is one way you support the world-wide mission of the church.

While the church has always maintained that "man does not live by bread alone," it has also realized that a person cannot be very religious if he is starving or sick. Therefore the modern church has built hospitals in Africa, Asia, among the American Indians, in our great cities, and wherever there are sick and needy. The church is training men for positions as hospital chaplains, because many people find a very real need for religion when ill health or death appears before them.

The church has also established schools, not only that people may learn to read the New Testament and write the good news, but that they may learn to grow better foods, build better homes, and avoid disease. Dr. Frank Laubach with his famous "each one teach one" has reached many people who never before had a written language.

Through the ages the church has ministered to those in prison. Today most prisons have a prison chaplain who holds services and counsels with prisoners, as well as helps released prisoners reestablish themselves in a community. The chaplain's services may even include helping to prepare a community to receive a man who has completed a term behind bars.

Hope In A Larger Fellowship

Closely related to the service which the church renders to the needy is its purpose of bringing together into one fellowship all the peoples of the world. Christian churches teach that man's relationship to God is as a son to his father. This teaching naturally leads to the belief that all men are brothers, whether white, black, brown, whether rich or poor, whether English, Russian, Chinese, or Indian. Therefore all people belong to a universal brotherhood.

All the churches teach, but not all of them practice, the idea that to God a human being is a human being no matter what the color of his skin or the language he speaks. The church believed in fundamental human rights long before the United Nations published its excellent declaration of human rights. The church seeks world peace through bringing all peoples to God through Christ.

The churches are also trying in varying degrees to transform our society into a Christian society which some of them would call "the kingdom of God on earth." Christians differ on what they mean by the kingdom of God and whether it can come on earth. Perhaps all would agree that the Kingdom is the rule of God in the hearts of all people and in society.

What do you understand the Kingdom of God to mean?

Christian Fellowship Brings Hope

Christian fellowship is different from the fellowship one finds in other community groups. It is a fellowship which unites people together because it unites them to God. It is a fellowship on the highest level of human concern, the spiritual and moral. It is an inclusive fellowship which seeks all people. It is a redeeming fellowship which reconciles people to God. It is a sharing fellowship which says to the needy, "What's mine is ours; we'll share it." It is a creative fellowship, which means that when there is a conflict of ideas or desires, the members explore and discuss the possibilities with utter good will.

What Is Our Part?

The extension of the Christian fellowship depends not upon the minister but upon each Christian. There are some persons whom you can reach more effectively than any other minister or other person could. It is your duty to find these persons and to bring them into the fellowship. You may know them through school, through work, through athletics, or in other fellowships.

We can see that our own local church is not exclusive, shutting out persons because of race, social position, past sins, or other artificial barriers.

There is scarcely any American Christian Endeavor member who could not afford to share his food and clothing with those Christians and others who suffer throughout the world, as well as in our own country. Should not every Christian Endeavor have such a project? I know one that has "adopted" a German family in which the father is ill and unable to work and there are three small children. Food, clothing, and medical supplies are sent regularly to this needy family. Another

(Please turn to Page 31, Col. 1)

Daily Bible Readings

- Oct. 24. Making A New World Order. John 2:1-5.
- Oct. 25. Our Talents. Matt. 25:14-30.
- Oct. 26. Conditions of Salvation. Acts 3:19.
- Oct. 27. Candidate For Life Eternal. John 11:25, 26.
- Oct. 28. The Work of Grace. Eph. 3:5-8.
- Oct. 29. That Water Which Jesus Gives. John 4:14.
- Oct. 30. Topic—Christianity Brings New Hope. Romans 1:14-17; II Cor. 5:17-21; Isaiah 56:6-8.



Colorado Endeavorers Step Forward

Intermediate — September 25

(Continued from Page 19, Col. 3)

Song—"A Charge to Keep I Have."
(First two verses.)

Second Reader—

God send us men of steadfast will,
Patient, courageous, strong and true,
With vision clear and mind equipped
His will to learn, His work to do.

Song—"A Charge to Keep I Have."
(Last two verses.)

Girls—Whosoever will be great among you,
shall be your minister.

Boys—And whosoever of you will be chief-
est, shall be the servant of all.

Unison—For even the Son of man came not
to be ministered unto, but to minister
and to give his life a ransom for many.

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Leave countless marks for good or ill
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So this is the wish I always wish, the
prayer I ever pray:
Let my life help the other lives it passes
by the way.

Duet or Quartet—"Fitted for Service."

Prayer

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(Continued from Page 29, Col. 3)

is doing the same for a family in this try.

can be genuinely concerned (without "nosy or gossipy") in the joys and sorrows of our fellow Christians. *Talk over where how you can do this.*

can resolve to work out all conflicts in spirit of good will.

Youth Speaks

Young people made their weight felt in Boston, not so much in a political way as the wisdom shown by youth consultants during the discussions. One example was in short speech made by a Berlin youth leader, L. Lange. The German youth appealed to the Church for "clearer guidance on social responsibility to today's youth." Youth today, said, are completely baffled by the complexity of social and political problems. . . . in the hugeness of the issues at stake.

What we need is certainly not paternalism," he added, "but rather the possibility of living with socially active and creative teams who know what they want, and how they want it, and are not mysterious about it. Young people, it seems, are looking towards the Church for such a possibility."

Young Lange said that the youth of today do not feel they're the hope of the world, as the politicians say when they need the votes of support of additional people. Youth wants to grow into political and social maturity, and take up their responsibility as citizens of the respective societies.

Projects:

Plan a service to present to the entire congregation showing how youth are bringing through giving of themselves to missions.

Write to the World Council of Churches for data on Youth Work Projects around the world.

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Topics for SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 4. **The Name.** Ephesians 4:1-7.
Sept. 11. **The Pledge.** Proverbs 3:5,6.
Sept. 18. **The Principles.** Romans 10:4-10; I John 1:7.
Sept. 25. **The Program.** Romans 12.

Topics for OCTOBER

- Oct. 2. **Transportation and Communication.** Isaiah 61:1-3.
Oct. 9. **Helps to Better Living.** John 10:1-10.
Oct. 16. **A Christian Is Forgiving.** Acts 7:54-60.
Oct. 23. **A Christian Is Thoughtful of the Rights of Others.** I Kings 21:1-10.
Oct. 30. **A Christian Is Friendly.** John 11:1-3, 20-22, 32-44.

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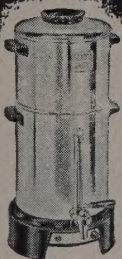


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53. Map Showing Approximate Distances from Jerusalem to Various Historical Points.

54. Chart Showing the Interior Arrangement of the Temple at Jerusalem.

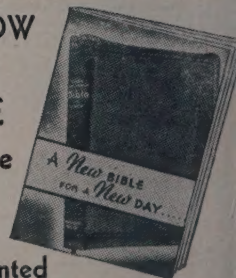
55. Thirteen Special Illustrated Maps Showing the Journeys of Jesus, Peter, Paul, and the Journeys of the Children of Israel from Egypt to Canaan. These are separate maps, mind you—not several crowded together on one page.

The Revised Version is given in the wide margin opposite the verses, wherever an important difference in meaning occurs.

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